Hafa Adai!

Check out *Okeanos Marianas* in open house tomorrow. PAGE 2
Next Top Chef 2017 competition gets over $40K in donations. PAGE 5

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CHCC could defer rate hike if...

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday could defer increasing its rates if the Legislature gives it the funds for the corporation to offset its growing charity care costs.

This was the response yesterday of CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña when asked if she could defer increasing the rates if the Legislature provides the corporation about $16 million.

In a joint committee meeting of both the House of Representatives and Senate health and welfare committees yesterday, CHCC chief financial officer Derek Sasamoto said the total uncompensated care costs for fiscal year 2017 alone amounted to

See CHCC on Page 4

GAO: Without workers, CNMI GDP will sink

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

If the CNMI is denied continued access to foreign workers, the Commonwealth's gross domestic product would significantly plummet, according to acting CNMI Labor secretary Vicky Benavente, citing a U.S. Government Accountability Office report

"I spoke with the U.S. GAO in my first two days on the job and they had a lot of questions about how, why, and what we plan to do about the CW situation.

"U.S. GAO has a report that says

See GAO on Page 4

Work on new animal shelter to begin

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office expects to start the construction of a 5,550-square-foot animal shelter in the next few months.

According to Saipan mayor special assistant Henry Hofschneider, they are at the tail end of the redesign process for the new kennel and is looking at another three months before a construction contract is finalized.

The original kennel in Lower Base was destroyed in 2015 as a result of Typhoon Soudelor.

The building was condemned af-

See WORK on Page 4

AT THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Bogdan: Fantastic opportunity to serve on the bench

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Wesley M. Bogdan officially assumed the post of Superior Court associate judge yesterday in an investiture ceremony at the CNMI Supreme Court that saw him joining the Judiciary family.

In his judicial address, Bogdan said it is an honor and privilege to serve on the bench. Although not historically from the CNMI,

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Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan takes his oath before Gov. Ralph DLG Torres at his investiture ceremony yesterday in the CNMI Supreme Court. Holding the Bible is Bogdan's wife, Tomoko. Also in the photo are Tomoko's father, Nobuhisa Kawakata, and the governor's chief of staff, Matthew O. Deleon Guerrero.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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President Donald Trump delivers a sharp warning to North Korea

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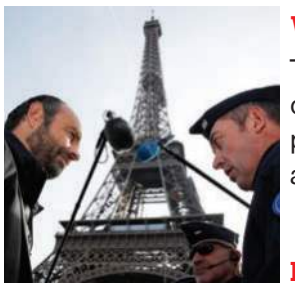

WORLD
Ten people suspected of preparing for a possible attack are arrested.

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LIFE & STYLE
The Louvre Abu Dhabi is opening to the public after a decade of delays.

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Local

HANMI: Hotel occupancy tax also helps the CNMI economy

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Aside from the current tourism and economic boom, the underlying lifeblood of the CNMI economy is actually taxes.

Without taxes, any nation, country, and government cannot deliver services meant for the general welfare and protection of its citizens.

One of those taxes that the CNMI government greatly benefits from is the hotel occupancy tax. Hotels are required to charge customers a 15 percent tax on top of the room rate.

Members of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands posted a record-breaking hotel occupancy in August 2018, reporting a 97.35 percent average occupancy rate among its 11 member-hotels. This is a 4-percent increase compared to August 2016 and breaks the August 2013 record of 94.01 percent average occupancy.

That high occupancy rate resulted in high hotel occupancy tax collection in the same month—higher than what the Marianas Visitors Authority had projected for August. Payment and collection of hotel occupancy tax is critical as 80 percent of it goes to the MVA.

HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh said the tax increase was not because of more contributors but because of higher room rates.

"The increase came from those that are already paying hotel occupancy tax. The collection was because of higher room rates and it does not mean it came from new compliance from the guesthouses and bed-and-breakfasts because a lot of them are still in hiding," she said.

"The reported 63 registered guest houses and B&Bs have nothing on the unregistered 500 more B&Bs you will find in online bookings such as AirBnB," she added.

Cavanagh noted the "price wars" that are going on with the different airlines that service the same cities from China to Saipan can greatly affect the hotel industry in the CNMI.

"What would happen is you have all these airlines that are competing that have low prices, so they may be sending them to places that might not be paying hotel occupancy tax. Once HANMI's reservations and occupancy goes down and the guesthouses and B&B group goes up, taxes are going to go down because, remember, there is only about 63 rooms that are registered and legitimate out of 500 posted in AirB&B."

"Non-availability of rooms in hotels does not give a reason for unregistered guesthouses and B&Bs to open and operate illegally and that doesn't give a reason as well to not enforce tax laws… I am just saying, give them time to comply and don't close them down," she added.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson confirmed that the increase in the hotel occupancy tax is a result of several factors.

"Visitor arrivals continue to be strong and as a result the taxes paid on the hotel rooms at our hotels is high. We also have seen increased compliance with our tax laws by our hotels in the CNMI," she said.

In addition, the Department of Finance Division of Revenue and Taxation has been addressing the problem of unregistered guesthouses and B&Bs through audits and enforcement efforts on non-compliant hotels, bed and breakfasts, and other related establishments. "[Through this], we have seen an improvement in the hotel occupancy tax reporting as well as in other tax categories," she added.

Larson said anytime that you enforce and encourage compliance you will see an increase in taxes.

"The efforts of the Division of Revenue and Taxation will not stop.

"There are plans for additional enforcement operations throughout the CNMI in addition to what is already occurring. As these operations are ongoing, we cannot disclose all of our plans at this time, but rest assured, we will not stop until full compliance occurs," she added.

Larson said the laws are very clear regarding the taxes a business is required to pay, whether it be a hotel, a B&B, or any other type of business.

"The DOF Division of Revenue and Taxation has always been willing to work with our taxpayers to understand the laws and work toward full compliance. Should a business willfully decide to evade our tax laws, we will enforce our laws and regulations on that business."

"If members of the public have any concerns regarding any businesses that are operating outside of the scope of the law, we encourage them to call us at 664-1100 and report these businesses to us so that we can investigate these companies and bring them into compliance," she added.

Check out *Okeanos Marianas* in open house tomorrow

The *Okeanos Marianas*, a traditional Polynesian double-hulled, 50-foot open ocean sailing canoe, is scheduled to host an "open house" on Friday, Nov. 10, from 10am to 3pm, at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The event is intended to allow the public to come on board and inspect the *Okeanos Marianas* at the tip of the Garapan pier. The public is being encouraged to bring their families and friends for a first-hand look at the canoe.

This vessel is provided by the Okeanos Foundation for the Sea for the purpose of transporting people and cargo between Saipan and neighboring islands in the Northern Marianas. This is being done by creating a commercial entity, Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The *Okeanos Marianas* is a traditional Polynesian double-hulled, 50-foot open ocean sailing canoe.

OSST was founded by Emma Perez, managing director; Ray Tebuteb, operations director; and Pete Perez, member of the board of directors, in conjunction with the Okeanos Foundation.

The Okeanos Foundation for the Sea is dedicated to facilitating sustainable, fossil fuel-free sea transportation by building traditional Polynesian canoes or *vaka motus*, applying modern materials to traditional boat-building techniques.

Okeanos' *vaka motus* are internationally certified for open ocean commercial use and equipped with solar panels and coconut oil engines. In addition to the vessels, Okeanos provides wages, crew training, operations, insurance, and other services foundational to establishing a local, community-led business model that generates revenue for the people of the Commonwealth while restoring indigenous maritime traditions.

Join family, friends, and the Saipan community as well as 500 Sails and the seafaring families at the Garapan Fishing Base tomorrow for the open house.

Questions? Check for updates on the Okeanos Marianas Facebook page or contact emma.perez@okeanos-marianas.com. ***(PR)***

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#WeWalkCNMI this month

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One in 10 Americans has diabetes. That translates to more the 30 million people.

Another 84 million adults in the United States are at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

Diabetes is one of the leading causes of disability and death in the United States.

These sobering facts are the reasons for the designation of November as Diabetes Prevention Month, which is observed across the United States and its territories.

In line with this, the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be raising awareness about diabetes and help promote the non-communicable disease's prevention.

Based on the 2016 Non-Communicable Diseases and Risk Factor Hybrid Survey Report, the prevalence of diabetes in the CNMI ranges from 12.5 to 18 percent.

CHCC physician Dr. Beth Kohnen said that people need to think whether they are at risk for diabetes.

"Look at your immediate environment—your family. Do you have a first-degree relative like your mother, father, sister, brother, or child with diabetes?" she asked. Someone like that has five to 10 times higher lifetime risk of developing diabetes than someone who does not, she added.

"Other tests include checking your national descent. Are you a Pacific Islander, Hispanic, or of African or Asian descent? Are you overweight? Is your lifestyle sedentary and you don't get exercise? Do you eat a diet with lots of sugar coming from sweetened beverages, sweet treats or simple sugars like white rice, bread, few vegetables and white grains? Lifestyle and diet are big factors in contributing to being at risk for Type 2 diabetes," she added.

If one has diabetes, the best way to manage the disease is to keep the blood sugar as close to normal as possible.

"[A blood sugar of] 70 to 110 is normal most of the time for people who don't have diabetes, so if you are diabetic, the goal is to keep blood sugar as close to those numbers. You can test blood sugar at home by using a handheld machine called glucometer. Another way is having your hemoglobin A1C or 'glycohemoglobin' tested by your health care provider or make an appointment at the Family Care Clinic at CHCC."

According to Kohnen, for people who don't have symptoms but are at risk of developing diabetes, weight maintenance and staying active are good preventive measures.

"Keep an appropriate weight. Your body mass index should be under 25. To determine your BMI, take your weight in kilograms and divide it by your height in meters squared. Also, there are many BMI calculators available online."

"Staying active doesn't only prevent diabetes but helps promote the overall wellbeing of a person," she added.

Making people adopt an active lifestyle is a challenge in the community as 33 percent of CNMI adults reported not having participated in any physical activity or exercise in the past month, according to the 2016 Non-Communicable Diseases and Risk Factor Hybrid Survey Report. Lack of exercise has been linked to chronic diseases, including diabetes.

As the campaign against diabetes pushes this month, the

See #WEWALKCNMI on Next Page

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7H260	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
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ELANTRA			
7H010	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995

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		DISCOUNT	PRICE
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7M038	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$3,000	$25,995
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8D025	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$18,995
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8D028	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$4,000	$18,995
8D014	GRAY, LEATHER SEAT, AT, HATCHBACK, GRAND TOURING	$4,000	$22,995
MAZDA 6			
7D226	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, SPORT	$4,000	$20,995
7D242	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, TOURING	$4,000	$21,995
MX-5			
7D121	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
7D203	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
CX-3 SPORT			
~~8D043~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$19,995~~
8D045	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
~~8D048~~	~~BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$19,995~~
8D049	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D050	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
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BOGDAN

From Page 1

he said he is proud to call the Commonwealth home.

Bogdan, 59, recounted how leaving behind his work at the Office of the Governor and assuming the position of an associate judge as bittersweet. It meant leaving a place where he had great friendships and experiences, including representing the CNMI in the most recent Covenant Section 902 consultations.

"More than anything, it has been a privilege to see the torch of leadership and responsibility passing to the younger generation of local Chamorro and Carolinians and to people like myself, who might not historically be from the CNMI, but who live here, love it here, and proud to call the CNMI home," said the judge in his remarks.

Bogdan said he truly believes that the Senate's confirmation process reflects the character of all the people of the CNMI and proves "what a great community we have."

Newly-sworn in Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan poses with CNMI, Guam, and U.S. District Court justices and judges, along with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Villa Hocog, Bogdan's wife Tomoko, and Tomoko's father Nobuhisa Kawakata, at the investiture ceremony yesterday in the CNMI Supreme Court. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

He thanked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for nominating him to the bench and the Legislature for confirming him to the post. He also expressed appreciation to the Judiciary.

"I sincerely thank all the people of the CNMI," Bogdan added.

The judge also recalled how he met his wife, Tomoko, at a beach on Saipan and expressed appreciation for his father-in-law, Nobuhisa Kawakata, who flew from Japan to attend the ceremony.

In a later interview, Bogdan sees a lot of work ahead as a judge but also a lot of fantastic opportunity. He believes a lawyer needs a lot of experience to be a good judge.

"The more you've been able to accomplish in the past, the better it prepares you for the bench," he said.

As to what cases he will handle, Bogdan said they have a rotation process, in which they have been assigned some type of cases and share the cases with the other judges.

Bogdan noted that the Superior Court has a huge caseload as the court only has four judges, about a year and a half after David Wiseman retired as a judge. He said the backlog would need to be taken cared of.

In his remarks, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro stressed the important role of judges. "There is no liberty if the power of judging is not separated from the legislative and executive powers," Castro said, quoting Alexander Hamilton, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States.

Castro said that judges interpret the law, weigh the evidence presented, and control how hearings and trials unfold in their courtrooms. But most importantly, Castro said, judges are impartial decision makers in the pursuit of justice.

In his brief remarks, Torres said one can always trust Bogdan's judgment.

Torres cited Bogdan's contribution as his then-legal counsel and senior policy adviser, particularly with respect to military affairs, assisting with the location and construction of the U.S. Air Force's Divert Project and the U.S. Marine Corps CNMI Joint Military Training Project.

Torres' chief of staff, Matthew O. Deleon Guerrero, said he learned much from working with Bogdan about service and integrity toward a greater goal.

"To me, Wes epitomizes the essence of public service—fighting for what is right even in the face of great challenges and oversized adversaries, and doing so with a firm understanding and appreciation for the trust that is placed on each and every public servant," Deleon Guerrero said.

In his closing remarks, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja shared the four principles that he tries to apply each and every time he is in court or in chambers: to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially.

"By observing these principles you will be an extremely successful judge. I really look forward to working with you. You are a fantastic addition to our team," Naraja said.

GAO

From Page 1

if we were going to remove all contract workers from the CNMI, the GDP will decline by 26 to 62 percent," she said, speaking at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting last Nov. 2 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's SandCastle.

"Twenty-six to 62 percent amounts to millions of dollars," she added.

In mid-October this year, the Bureau of Economic Analysis released a report stating that the CNMI's gross domestic product grew by 28.6 percent in 2016.

In a U.S. GAO report released early last month, it noted that, although the CNMI economy of fiscal year 2015 was in much better shape compared to fiscal year 2005, its reliance in foreign labor—set to end on Dec. 31, 2019—could impede the Commonwealth's ability to repay its debts.

U.S. Public Law 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, brought in federal control of the CNMI's immigration system and phases out of the nonresident contract workers, also called the CW program.

Benavente said the intent of the U.S. Congress is to give the CNMI as much flexibility as possible in maintaining businesses and other revenue sources and developing new economic opportunities.

"I would like to encourage the business community to update data in the marianaslabor.net website," said Benavente.

"We need data so we can work with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and all the other agencies of the federal government who are looking into having us comply with Public Law 110-229," she added.

Benavente recalled that the CNMI recorded 51,000 total workers in 2001. Seventy percent of these were CW workers.

"In 2015, we have a 25,000 workforce and nearly half of those are U.S. citizens or CNMI permanent residents. In just two years, we have gone through a real significant shift," she said.

The shift happened notwithstanding challenges that the business sector and government experienced.

"On the business side, the challenges involve recruiting workers and keeping them in the workforce. There are challenges on training because we are trying to survive and stay competent. On the government side, we need data. We need a lot of data and compliance in the regulations of not just the Department of Labor but all the departments and agencies across the board and this will help all of us," Benavente added.

CHCC

From Page 1

over $13 million.

Uncompensated care, also known as charity care, refers to amounts owed the hospital when medical services are rendered to those who cannot afford to pay their bills. CHCC is required under federal law to provide services to people in need regardless of their capacity to pay.

In yesterday's meeting with the Legislature, Sasamoto said that, of the total uncompensated care, the amount of $12.7 million was posted by patients on Saipan, while $121,623 was posted on Rota and 162,482.51 was from Tinian.

The corporation expects a similar amount in fiscal year 2018.

In order to compensate for the overwhelming expenses and to make up for the lackluster revenue of the lone hospital in the CNMI, CHCC announced in the last week of September their plan to increase rates at the hospital—some by as much as 156 percent higher than previous rates.

Several members of the Legislature expressed disappointment with that decision and slammed the corporation during yesterday's committee hearing while repeatedly asking how the corporation came up with the rates of increases.

According to Sasamoto, an estimated 92 percent of CHCC's funding goes to "necessities" such as medical supplies, personnel salaries, utilities, etc., leaving CHCC with no room for cost-cutting measures.

Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), who attended yesterday's meeting with CHCC management and board members, described the increases as unreasonable.

"CHCC's justification to execute an emergency regulation to increase room rates is untimely, unreasonable, and unacceptable, considering the care and services provided to our patients, and community alike. To many, the care and services rendered are substandard," said Santos in a statement.

According to Santos, the room and board increases that CHCC seeks to implement would make the rates "astronomically high" and would eventually "become unaffordable where the indigent population will triple."

"The goal that CHCC tries to achieve will be counterproductive," she added.

Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), one of many lawmakers that questioned the rate increases, questioned CHCC's decision to implement room rate increases when hospital room services were not "to the highest standard."

If CHCC needs help with funding, Cruz recommended that CHCC approach the Legislature, instead of increasing rates and "burdening the public"—which Sasamoto said the corporation did.

"We did come to the Legislature for help. We did. We came and asked for help at the very least for uncompensated care," he said. "Nobody here in this room wants to turn anybody away who needs help."

"Everyone here cares about healthcare, but we need to translate that into dollars," he added.

CHCC was allocated a budget of just $708,311 for fiscal year 2018 and $844,933 for fiscal year 2017.

"I don't even know what that is," said Sasamoto, referring to the fiscal year 2018 allocation for CHCC.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) told both committees that he "has spoken with a lot of patients, CHC [Commonwealth Health Center] nurses, doctors, and management" who expressed concerns about the dire budgeting needs of CHCC.

"[I sincerely hope that] we prioritize the CHCC budget because it does not matter if you are rich or poor, to CHCC you will get the same treatment; everyone of us would get the same [medical] treatment," he said.

WORK

From Page 1

ter the typhoon. Since then, the Dog Control Program has been housing stray dogs in a temporary shelter in As Perdido.

After Soudelor, the mayor's office received a $361,406.38 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to build a new animal shelter

Hofschneider said a complete design and architectural plan should be ready for review by Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang in the next two months.

"Within the next month or two, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan should be receiving a complete architectural and engineering design, construction scope of work, and other requirements from the Department of Public Works Technical Services Division for Mayor Apatang's review and decision to accept or not," said Hofschneider.

If Apatang accepts the proposal, it will still be submitted to the Public Assistance Office of the Governor for review. After that, the plan will be transmitted to FEMA for review, evaluation, and processing of paperwork.

"The proposed project must go through the review of regulatory permitting agencies, both federal and local, before the project is even announced for solicitation of bids," said Hofschneider.

According to Hofschneider, the estimate for the development of a construction contract is about three months minimum.

"Bottom line, we are looking at least another three months before bids are received and evaluated and a construction contract entered into. But the timeline here are all estimates," he said.

Although the office was approved $361,406.38 for a new shelter, Hofschneider said they are still required to pay 10 percent of the construction cost.

"FEMA has a requirement that the awardees pay for a certain percentage of the total project cost for some projects, and the animal shelter is one such project. So for our project cost estimate of $361,406.38, our share should be around $36,140.64. Our share will be paid from our general fund budget," said Hofschneider.

The new animal shelter will be built on a portion of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources As Perdido property and will be approximately 5,550 square feet, nearly the same size as the old shelter that was destroyed.

#WEWALKCNMI

From Page 3

Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, will be launching a walking initiative called #WeWalkCNMI.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña said the goal of #WeWalkCNMI is to encourage the community to walk for better health.

The #WeWalkCNMI will happen from 5:30pm to 6:30pm on Nov. 14 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort pathway, Nov.16 at Tanapag Middle School, Nov. 21 at Garapan Public Market and at Coral Ocean Point, Nov. 28 at Dandan Baseball Field, Nov. 30 at the Oleai and Kilili pavilions.

"We hope that through promoting simple activity, more people will be motivated to adopt a healthier lifestyle," Muña said.

SIGNING CEREMONY
The Board of Education, through chair MaryLou S. Ada, signed yesterday a loan of up to $5 million with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program through First Hawaiian Bank. The ceremony, held during the BOE's Fiscal, Personnel and Administration committee meeting, was witnessed by FHB executives Vicky Izuka and David Guerrero, committee chair Herman T. Guerrero, acting Education commissioner Glenn Muña, federal programs officer Tim Thornburg, Public School Systems capital improvement project coordinator Rachel Fusco, Kagman High School principal Leila Staffler, Head Start director Lathania Santos, and education officials Annette Pladevega, Bobby Cruz, and George Palican. The interest-only loan will fund capital improvement projects of the PSS on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Next Top Chef 2017 competition receives over $40K in donations

The Next Top Chef has received over $40,000 worth of donations that will go to the cooking competition.

According to Next Top Chef committee member Rose Smith, the committee has so far received donations from numerous sponsors, both in-kind and cash, worth $42,000. That includes towels and supplies that will be used at the competition, cash donations, and equipment.

Final touches are being made before the big event today, Nov. 9, starting at 6pm, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's dinner show area.

All the slots for the competition have been filled.

There will be 12 competing chefs from hotels, restaurants, and independent individuals who feel that they have what it takes to become the 2017 Next Top Chef.

A cash prize of $1,000 will go to the chef who wins first place, $500 for second place, and $300 for third place.

Tickets, which cost $50 per head, to the contest have been sold out on tickets since Tuesday but they is still accepting payments at the door. The contest is a fundraiser of the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Torres-Trump talks earn plaudits

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Both acting governor Victor B. Hocog and House Speaker Raphael Demapan (R-Saipan) praised Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' meeting with U.S. President Donald J. Trump on the CW-1 issues.

Torres met with the president in Hawaii after the latter passed by the state before starting his Asia-Pacific trip, which included visits to Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Trump spent a few hours in Honolulu to talk about the issues of the governors of Guam, American Samoa, Alaska, and Hawaii.

"I am very pleased [Trump] and the governor are discussing. I communicated with the governor whether he conveyed [to the President] our present situation and the governor told me that the President would support us 100 percent," said Hocog, adding that discussions to allow the CNMI to continue to thrive must persist.

"We need to continue our economic approach; with all these soon-to-rise buildings, we definitely need more workers. There may be some messages saying we [have high unemployment] in the CNMI, but they have to understand that…these individuals do not have [construction experience]," said Hocog.

Demapan also lauded the ongoing talks between Torres and Trump.

"I am very grateful to the governor for putting a focus on taking care of our CW-1 issue dilemma. I would also like to commend the president for taking the time to meet with our governor and sharing some of his thoughts on our situation," said Demapan, adding that communications with the Trump administration must continue to make sure "we continue to find solutions."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) H.R. 339, which passed in late August 2017, added an additional 350 slots to the CW-1 numerical limit of 12,998 for fiscal year 2017. Along with additional slots, the same law also had provisions that precluded recent construction workers from applying for a CW-1 visa.

Hocog reportedly "asked the governor" to discuss the dilemma with the president during his meeting.

"We cannot put [workers] in construction when they lack the knowledge to [build] high-rise buildings," he said, adding that he hopes that training from the Northern Marianas Trades Institute would provide "local people" the "knowledge to [provide the workforce] in the future."

Public welcomes first Coffee With A Cop

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
A few of the police officers that participated in the island's first Coffee With A Cop pose for a photo with community members and McDonald's staff last Tuesday at McDonald's Middle Road.

Officers from the Department of Public Safety sat down Tuesday with members of the public for the first ever Coffee With a Cop at McDonald's Saipan on Middle Road for an informal chat on any issues or concerns that they may have.

According to McDonald's Middle Road general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., the event was created to bring together the community and the police department and establish a better bond.

The coffee came free.

"By bringing the cops and the community to a neutral place such as McDonald's over a free coffee, it gives an opportunity for the community and the officers to connect and to just get to know one another and build a stronger relationship," said Ayuyu.

He said events like this are an opportunity for people to meet with those whose jobs are to protect them.

"These are the people that protect us on a daily basis and they protect the community. We depend on them. It's hard to depend on somebody when you don't trust them and have an open communication with them," said Ayuyu.

Although it's a small step in developing a bond between the community and DPS, he said it's a step in the right direction.

Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that it's necessary for the department to reach out to the community because safety is a joint effort.

"We need to work together as a community because police officers cannot fight crimes alone," he said.

Guerrero said the event would be the start for the community and all law enforcement agencies to establish a bond to ensure a safer environment.

"Any assistance that we can get helps, especially from the community, because they see more of what is out there than we do," said Guerrero,

According to police captain Joe Saurez, the current ratio of police officers to community members in the CNMI is one officer for every 500 individuals. The ideal is typically one officer for every 52 people.

Guerrero said the community shouldn't be limited to organized events to get the chance to communicate with a police officer. "We welcome it," said Guerrero. "My officers enjoy mingling with the public. We're your friends not your enemies."

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said he had a great time discussing different issues with the officers.

By personally meeting with a few of the officers, Propst said he was able to learn about their struggles and got a brief overview on what they deal with every day.

The program is already being done at McDonald's branches in Guam.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Phones at OAG Criminal Division back in service

The telephone lines for the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division office in Susupe are back in service. To reach the OAG's Criminal Division, call 237-7600. The fax number is 234-7016. ***(PR)***

CUC Customer Service Center open half-day on Veterans Day

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Customer Service Center will be open on Friday, Nov. 10, 2017, from 8am to 12pm for payments and purchase of pre-paid meter tokens (load) only. Because of the long weekend, CUC is extending its Customer Service Center hours for the convenience of its customers. All other offices, however, will be closed on Friday in observance of Veterans Day. For emergencies, contact the CUC Call Center at 664-4282 (4CUC). ***(PR)***

Church 360 to hold kids' fall celebration

Church 360 will be holding a kids' fall celebration this Friday, Nov. 10, from 6pm to 8pm at Church 360 on the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza. This free event is open for children ages 4-12. Parents are welcome to drop off their children or stay for the entire event. Parents will need to register their child at the door. Children will be learning about facing your fears through a Bible lesson, songs, verses, and Veggie Tale DVD clips. Children will also have snacks, play games, and make crafts. For more information email Joy at flybjrew@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on marketing

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar called "How to Write a Marketing Plan" at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017, from 8:30am to 10am. It will be presented by Nicole Babauta, director/business adviser at CNMI SBDC. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbden.ecenterdirect.comievents. ***(PR)***

Revived Kantan Isla is rescheduled

The Kantan Isla Music Festival will be held on Nov. 17 at the Garapan Fishing Base, from 5pm to 11pm. For additional information, call CCA at 322-9982. There would be a raffle drawing and incentives for participating individuals. Ten vendor slots are open for non-profit organizations, families, and churches that want to raise funds. The council will be providing tents but a $25 park and recreation fee is required.

Las Vegas Night on Nov. 18

The 2017 Rotary Club of Saipan's Las Vegas Night is on Nov. 18, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, from 6pm to 12pm. This year the Rotary Club of Saipan will make a donation to the Rotary Club of Las Vegas Nevada to help those in this year's mass shootings. Each ticket is $5 or get five tickets for $20. You can call the Rotary Club of Saipan at 783-6378 for tickets, or visit any of the distribution points at Megabyte, NMPASI, or Paradise Dental. ***(PR)***

Chamber hosts sales training for holidays

The "Customer Service & Suggestive Selling for the Holidays" training seminar will be conducted on Nov. 16, from 9am to 12pm at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315). Registration fee is $50 per person for Saipan Chamber of Commerce members and $55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

MVA membership meeting today

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold its semi-annual general membership meeting today, Nov. 9, 2017, at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort at 10am. Registration will begin at 9:30am.

Guest speakers will be from the MVA's offshore offices and will provide a recap of fiscal year 2017 projects and the MVA's marketing plans for fiscal year 2018.

Speakers will be the respective in-country managers: Irene Lee, Korea market; Shirley Zhang, China market; and Takashi Ichikura, Japan market.

The meeting cost is $16/person for MVA members and $20/person for non-members. The cost includes light refreshments and lunch. RSVP should be made by Nov. 3, 2017.

The MVA also welcomes new businesses, agencies and individuals who want to actively participate in the Marianas' top industry as MVA members. Membership is $100 annually. To RSVP, to request a membership application, or for more information, contact MVA Community Projects administrative assistant Demalynn Pagarao at dpagarao@mymarianas.com or call 664-3200. ***(MVA)***

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

As of November 9, 2017
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Windsurfing Saipan, Inc. dba Sea Wind Marine Sports Club	10/26/2017 ~~SLRm 2012 X 050~~ SLRm-2018-X-014 (Issued New Number)	Marine Sports - Renewal Non-Motorized Marine Sports	Micro Beach, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 10/26/2017
2. Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.	10/30/2017 SPI-2018-X-015	Drydock	Lower Base, Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
3. Man Bao Corporation dba Fantastic Garden	11/1/2017 SMS-2018-X-016	Construction of 26 unit hotel	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
4. Arcadia Partners, LLC	11/6/2017 SMS-2018-X-017	Construction of 8 3 bedroom townhouses	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
5. Deparment of Land and Natural Resources	10/24/2017 RLRm-2017-X-a 1024	Floating Dock	East Harbor Marina, Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 11/7/2017
6. Department of Land and Natural Resources	10/26/2017 RLRm-2017-X-a 1026	Giant Clam Cultivation	Teweksberry Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 11/7/2017

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major siting's. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

A chance for NMI entrepreneurs to 'step up'

The U.S Small Business Administration awarded the CNMI Department of Commerce grant funds amounting to $142,000 last September to be used in the State Trade Expansion Program or STEP UP program in the CNMI to support export growth among new and current businesses.

According to Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman, the program encourages new and current businesses to find and nurture a business niche that they can export to different parts of the world.

"Being that it is the first year that the CNMI has received this grant in quite a long time, it's an opportunity to disseminate information and hopefully somebody out there will find a niche that will enable them to be productive in and out of the CNMI," he said.

Rabauliman said they are not necessarily looking for investors but migrating CNMI talents and products to the rest of the world.

"The STEP UP program will not fund the business but the export part, like participation in foreign trade shows and foreign market sales trips. For example, there is a trade show that the business wants to participate in. Our target market is to supplement the overhead cost of the business' participation in that trade show."

"The goal is to put a light on the different and unique qualities of the CNMI that you can't find anywhere else in the world," he added.

This program is open to start-ups and existing businesses.

"This is open to different types of businesses, everything under the sun. If a new and current business can explore another market that they can export to, we are here to support," said Rabauliman. "The business can be something as simple as crafts and the businesses that are welcome to the program are not limited to products and goods as we also accept service type of industries. For example, we have a lot of engineers and architects on island that might be able to join in the STEP UP program. They can export this service as they have an island perspective in terms of how they design things."

Rabauliman was quick to say that the Department of Commerce will still prioritize sustaining the islands first.

"It does not make sense if we create such a great export industry and then we can't find our own products here on island," he said. "Our concern would always be try to sustain the islands first before we start expanding out. We will safeguard in sustaining the islands prior to sending products and services off to other places."

For more details of the STEP UP program, contact (670) 664-3000 or send inquiries to info@commerce.gov.mp. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

BoG schedule for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving

Bank of Guam will have the following hours for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day this month:

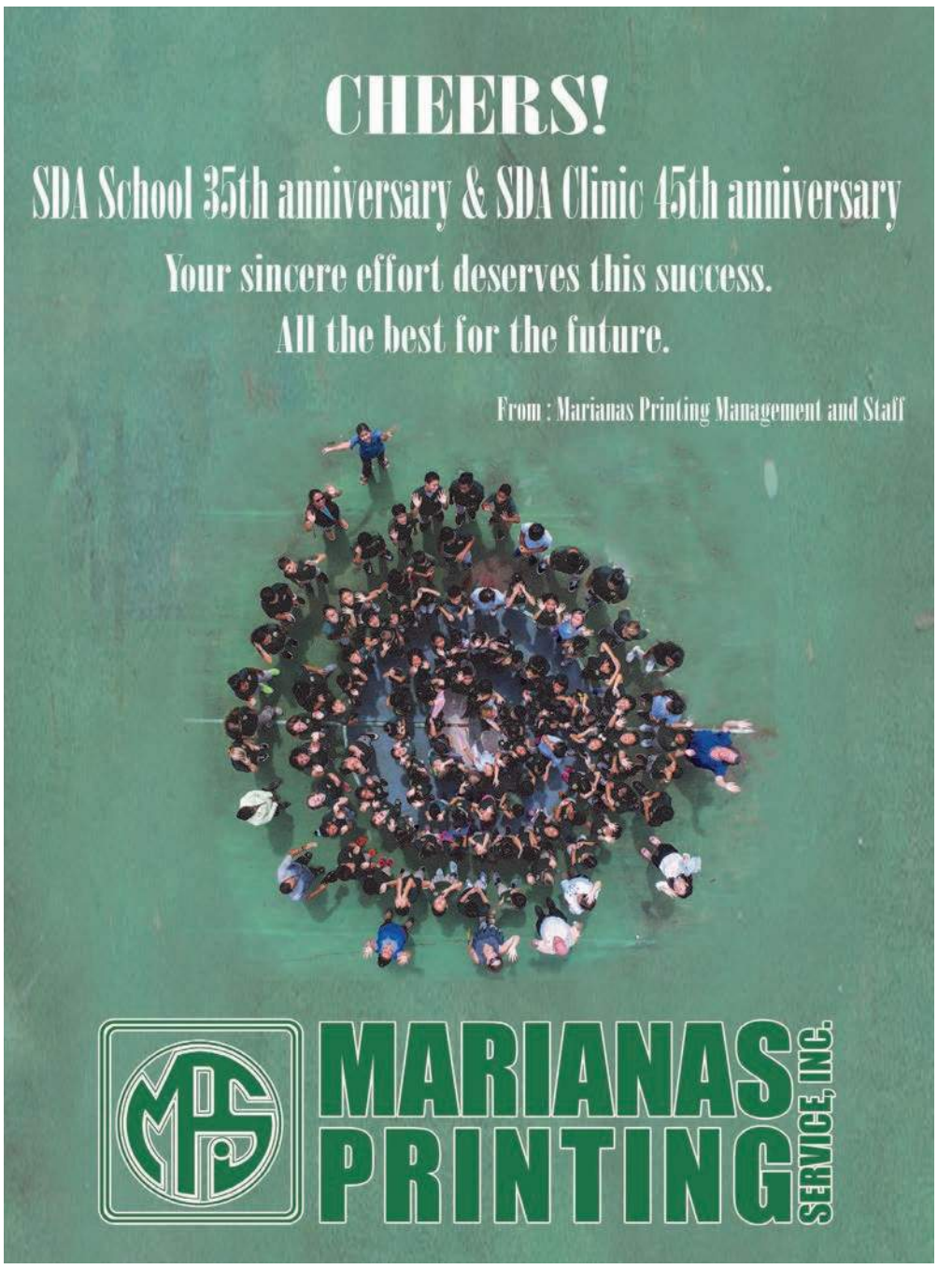
On Friday, Nov. 10, 2017, all Guam, CNMI, FSM, and SF branches will be closed. On Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017, all Guam and CNMI branches will be closed.

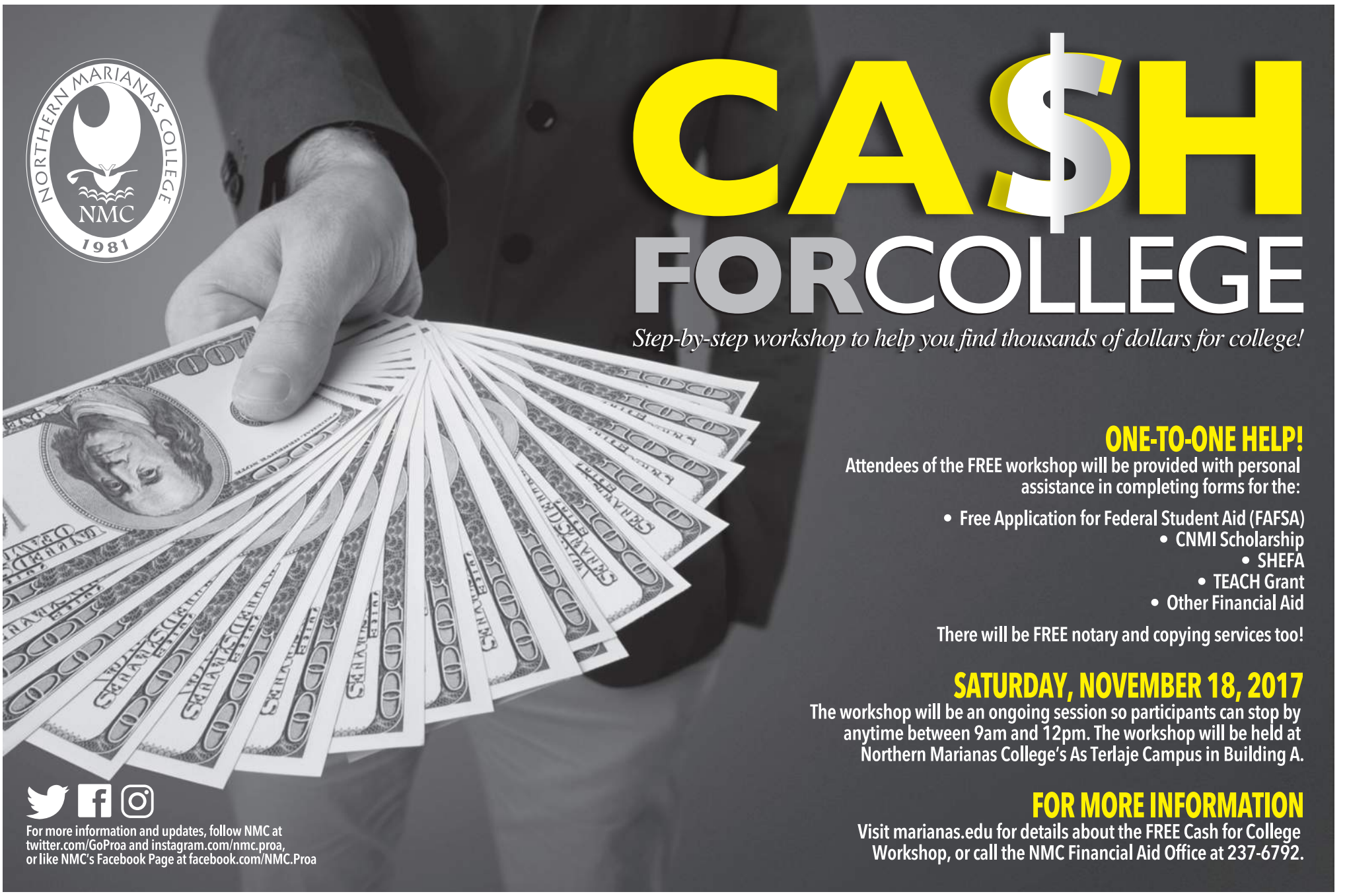
On Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017, hours of operation will reflect Friday hours. (For Guam and CNMI branches, 9am to 6pm and for SF and FSM branches, 9am to 5pm)

On Nov. 23 and 24, all Guam, CNMI, FSM, and SF branches will be closed.

On Wednesday, Nov. 22, normal hours will be observed, from 9am to 5pm.

Guam and CNMI branches that normally open on Saturdays will operate as usual, from 9am to 1pm. ***(PR)***


CHEERS!
SDA School 35th anniversary & SDA Clinic 45th anniversary
Your sincere effort deserves this success.
All the best for the future.
From : Marianas Printing Management and Staff
MARIANAS PRINTING SERVICE, INC.


NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
NMC
1981
CA$H FOR COLLEGE
Step-by-step workshop to help you find thousands of dollars for college!
ONE-TO-ONE HELP!
Attendees of the FREE workshop will be provided with personal assistance in completing forms for the:
• Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
• CNMI Scholarship
• SHEFA
• TEACH Grant
• Other Financial Aid
There will be FREE notary and copying services too!
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017
The workshop will be an ongoing session so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 12pm. The workshop will be held at Northern Marianas College's As Terlaje Campus in Building A.
FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit marianas.edu for details about the FREE Cash for College Workshop, or call the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792.
For more information and updates, follow NMC at twitter.com/GoProa and instagram.com/nmc.proa, or like NMC's Facebook Page at facebook.com/NMC.Proa

SBA seeks nominees

HAGATNA, Guam—The U.S. Small Business Administration has opened the nominations for the prestigious SBA Small Business Awards for 2018**.**

The SBA honors continue to be one of the most competitive, comprehensive and visible awards presented to small businesses.

With a record of recognizing excellence in small business for more than 27 years, past SBA winners in Guam have included outstanding small companies such as Cars Plus, Quality Distributors, Kloppenburg Enterprises, Global Food Services, Benson Hardware, National Office Supply, Security Title, PROA Restaurant, Jamaican Grill, ASC Trust Corp., and most recently, Guam AutoSpot.

"SBA's annual awards continue to generate interest and excitement in Guam and the CNMI because we discover great stories of innovation, creativity and teamwork focused on excellence. It is inspiring to learn about the positive, proactive measures that many small business owners and entrepreneurs are taking to sustain and grow their businesses, particularly with the economic buildup on Guam and the CNMI, "said Kenneth Lujan, SBA branch manager. "This year, we will be recognizing and honoring Guam and CNMI entrepreneurs and champions who have played a major role in the development of their respective economies and the small business communities."

The 2018 SBA award categories include:

- SBA's Small Business Person of the Year
- Entrepreneurial Success Award
- Family-Owned Business of the Year
- Small Business Exporter
- Young Entrepreneur of the Year
- Minority Small Business Champion Award
- Women in Business Champion Award
- Veteran Small Business Champion Award
- Financial Services Champion Award
- Home-Based Business Champion Award
- Small Business Journalist of the Year Award

Any individual or organization may submit a nomination for an SBA Small Business Award. The required nomination forms with detailed information for each of the eleven award categories can be downloaded from the web at the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network site, http://www.pacificsbdc.com/services/announcements, in the announcement section. Completed forms should be submitted to the SBA branch office at FHB Bldg., 400 Route 8, Ste. 302 by 4pm on Nov. 30, 2017. For more information, call SBA at 671-472-7419. ***(PR)***

Diyco graduates from basic training

Diyco

U.S. Air Force airman Lawrence G. Diyco has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Diyco is the son of Melanie G. and Jefrey T. Diyco, and grandson of Loretta T. Rangamar of Saipan.

He is a 2017 graduate of Saipan Southern High School. ***(PR)***

CONGRATULATIONS

Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic and Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist School on your anniversary!

Seventh-day Adventist Dental Clinic
45 YEARS OF SERVICE

SAIPAN ADVENTIST EDUCATION 1986
35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Hafa Adai! from the staff and management of
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

SDA School, clinic to mark milestones this Sunday

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is celebrating two events this month—the SDA School turns 35 and SDA Dental Clinic turns 45—and the theme "Celebrating Years of Service" couldn't be more apt.

Dr. Kenneth D. Pierson, the SDA Dental Clinic director, said that reaching both milestones mean a great deal to those working and those who have helped establish these two SDA Church-run institutions.

"For those who have served the school or clinic, their commitment to better our island's education services or dental services will continue to produce a positive impact in the lives of many on our island," said Pierson.

He recounted that the SDA Dental Clinic was started in 1972, with Dr. Steve Fischer as its first doctor. He and his wife Carol and two daughters were on Saipan for 19 years.

Maria Agulto, who is SDA Clinic's longest employee, works as a dental hygienist. This is her 41st year.

Saipan SDA School principal Dr. Ray R. Yates said this celebration is a celebration of life.

"The school, working with families over the years, means changing lives. We create leaders, celebrate milestones in a child's life, [and] teach morals that make the CNMI a better place. I believe that the school has had an impact on not just the CNMI but around the world. We have and have had students from many different countries that went to school here and went back to their home countries," he said.

"We are here not just to provide a good academic education. We are here to train the student to be good citizens, wherever they are in this world," Yates added.

Pierson said the SDA Dental Clinic has been instrumental in the fight against oral cancer.

"We have saved many people's lives because they sought care early enough to be able to have successful treatment and they are still here today," he said.

The SDA Dental Clinic also started a scholarship fund for deserving children to be able to attend the SDA School.

"We organize multiple mission trips each year to neighboring Micronesian Islands to serve their dental needs for free," he said.

The clinic also holds Clinic With A Heart and Give Kids a Smile days, which are free dental treatment days for those who are uninsured and have dental needs.

"We love giving back to our community and strive to act in selfless and caring ways," Pierson added.

Yates emphasizes that for SDA School to get this far and yet remain strong and steadfast is not an individual effort.

"Our key players are all our past and current staff. Each individual has played a significant role in helping to make the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School a better place for all of the students and parents. Each of our staff members have had an influence on our students and parents that have impacted their lives and this in return affects all of CNMI," he said.

"Our message to the public is that we thank them for continuing to put their trust in our services, dental and educational," Pierson said.

The SDA School and SDA Dental Clinic Anniversary celebration will be on Sunday, Nov. 12, from 11am to 3pm at the Garapan Fishing Base. SDA Church is inviting the public to attend. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

Flores, Union Bank rest case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Both sides rested yesterday in the ongoing federal jury trial of Derron Gerard Flores' lawsuit against the MUFG Union Bank over his late father's $200,000 time certificate of deposit.

Juan T. Lizama, counsel for Flores, rested the case after presenting his seventh witness.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona is presiding over the trial.

Lizama presented on Tuesday six witnesses: expert Donald S. Skupsky, MUFG Union Bank senior vice president Lisa Rockwell, former Union Bank Saipan and First Hawaiian Bank general manager Ken Kato, FHB manager Victoria B. Concepcion, Commonwealth Development Authority loan manager Oscar C. Camacho, and Derron Flores' late father, former Saipan mayor Donald G. Flores.

Lizama and his staff read in court Donald's deposition as well as the declarations of Skupsky and Rockwell. Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

Lizama and his staff also read the deposition of Donald's late wife, Cecilia Flores, at the continuation of the trial yesterday.

Attorneys Sean Frink and Catherine Cachero, counsel for Union Bank, called the bank's only witness: former Union Bank Saipan employee and current Commonwealth Development Authority employee Lourdes S. Deleon Guerrero.

After Deleon Guerrero completed her testimony, Frink said the bank rests.

Manglona instructed the juror to return today, Thursday, at noon for closing arguments.

Deleon Guerrero basically testified that she met Donald only twice—when he bought the $200,000 how what to do to get the money.

On Tuesday, Kato testified that he heard about Donald's TCD only when he got sued.

7,413 CNMI scholars, $69M in scholarships recognized

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog proclaimed Tuesday the first-ever CNMI Scholarship Month, in celebration of the 7,413 scholars of the CNMI and $69 million in scholarships handed out since 1993.

According to the proclamation, the CNMI was the first of the U.S. Pacific territories and Freely Associated States to become active in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, or WICHE, programs and initiatives. That allowed CNMI students to enroll in undergraduate programs in other member states and territories participating with deep discounts on tuition.

The CNMI also participates in the Student Exchange Program, which provides students with access to out-of-state higher education options, also including tuition savings.

According to Scholarship Office board chair Geri Dela Cruz, the idea to participate in the nationwide proclamation of November as scholarship month originated from CSO commissioner Rose Pangelinan.

The Scholarship Office would be holding a mini scholarship fair on Nov. 25, 2017, from 1pm to 3pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"The purpose of the event is to provide students an opportunity to speak one-on-one with the scholarship providers across the CNMI," said a Scholarship Office statement. "Mini scholarships" will be raffled off as prizes. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

SDA Family Fun Fair and Health Expo
Celebrating
45
Years of Service
35
Years of Service
Sunday, November 12, 2017
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Fishing Base, Garapan
All are Welcome!
Seventh-day Adventist
Dental Clinic
SAIPAN
ADVENTIST EDUCATION
1982
Celebrate with us!
The Saipan SDA Clinic is Celebrating 45 years of Service
and the Saipan SDA School is Celebrating 35 Years of Service.
Join us for:
• Free gifts (tee-shirts, water bottles and more)
• Free healthy cooking demonstrations with samples and recipe booklets
• Bounce house and games for the kids
• Health Screenings
• Free Food
• And More
EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 223

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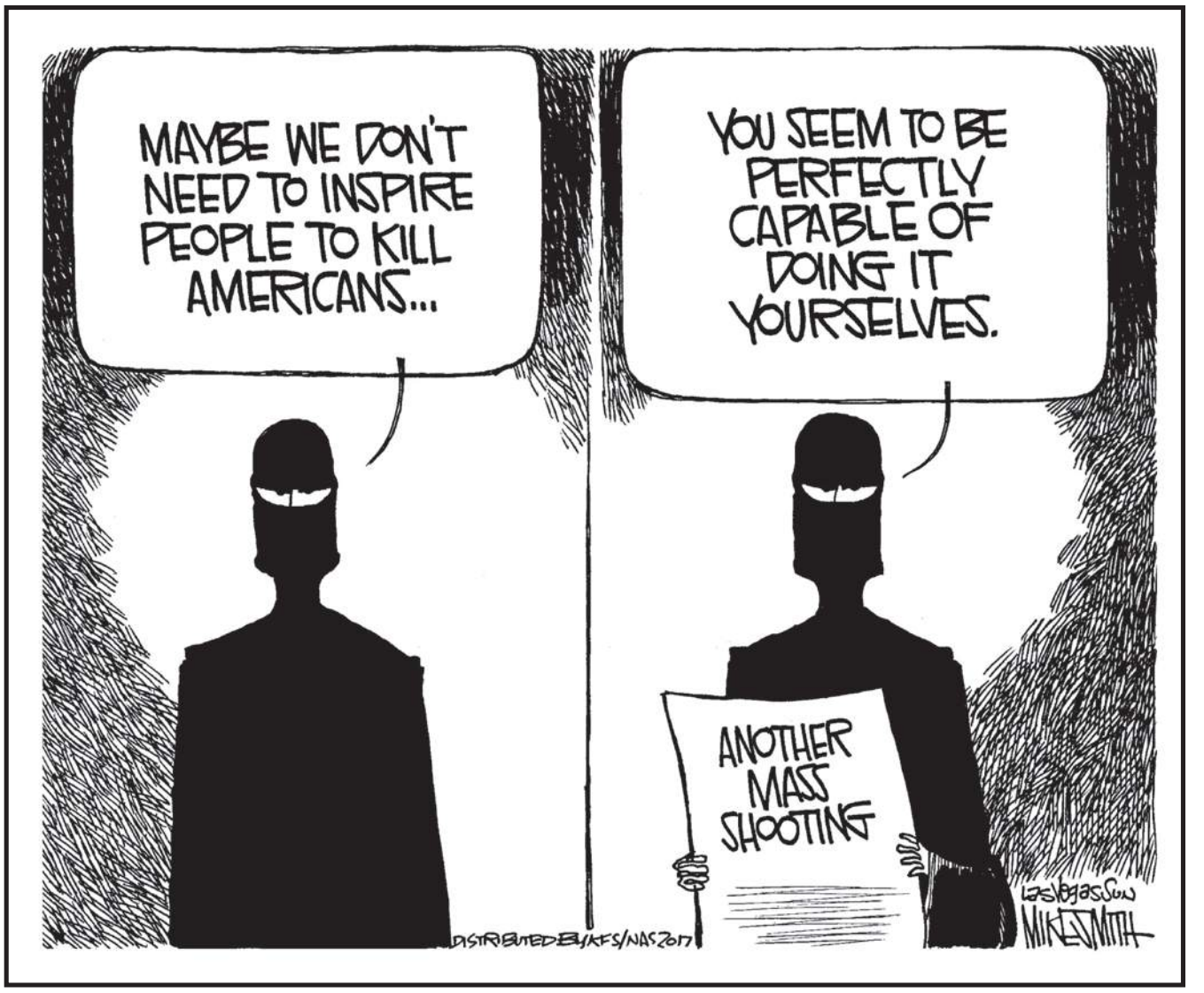
MAYBE WE DON'T NEED TO INSPIRE PEOPLE TO KILL AMERICANS...
YOU SEEM TO BE PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF DOING IT YOURSELVES.
ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING
DISTRIBUTED BY KFS/NAS 2017
MIKE SMITH

EDITORIAL

How to help prevent the next gun massacre

Mass killings like the one at a South Texas church are acts of extreme violence that defy rational explanation and simple solution. They raise demands for specific steps to be taken to ban horrors that are as indiscriminate as they are depraved.

That doesn't make this a time to mourn and shrug. America needs to deal with its propensity for gun violence. Here was another reminder.

Tens of thousands of churches across America held worship services Sunday, but it was the First Baptist Church in tiny Sutherland Springs that came under surprise attack by a heavily armed, disgraced Air Force veteran. The 26-year-old man, wearing a ballistic vest and skull face mask, murdered 26 members of the congregation, including children. The shooter was found dead in his vehicle after being chased by two heroic civilians in a truck.

America has endured so many mass shootings that people across the country were poised immediately to add the Texas incident to the raging debate over gun rights vs. gun control. It's only been a month since Las Vegas, the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Second Amendment supporters believe gun ownership is a right and guns protect. The adherents probably heard everything they needed in the incredible early news accounts from Sutherland Springs to justify their position: A church neighbor rushed to the scene with a rifle to engage the shooter, potentially saving lives. The neighbor flagged down a passing driver and they bravely took off after the gunman at 95 mph.

Gun control advocates think the country is less safe with a proliferation of guns: Assault rifles, concealed carry permits and permissive laws for firearms and ammunition contribute to the American disease of gun violence. They believe stricter controls would reduce mass shootings and carnage in Chicago and other cities.

Does either side's argument gain sway after Sutherland Springs? We'll see.

The Texas rampage apparently grew out of a demonic domestic dispute: The killer had been court-martialed and sentenced to military prison for assaulting his spouse and child. He received a bad-conduct discharge. He was feuding with his former in-laws and may have targeted the Sutherland Springs church because they attended there. The shooter was armed with a semi-automatic rifle and several handguns. It wasn't clear Monday how he obtained his weapons, but the Air Force said it had failed to notify federal authorities of his conviction, which would have prevented him from purchasing firearms. The Air Force said it would investigate.

The Texas killings were incomprehensible, and the circumstances were unique. But it's not tempting fate to anticipate more mass shootings. There will be more. That requires a response. The country can't accept mass carnage at churches, concerts, schools, workplaces and elsewhere as a fact of life.

See MASSACRE on Next Page

Why there is inaction on gun laws

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online *and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.*

Among the many problems with the Great Gun Debate these days is that the pro-gun crowd wants to make it a culture-war battle and the anti-gun crowd wants to pretend that it isn't.

On public policy grounds, the pro-gun people have the better arguments. Firearm homicides have declined since the 1990s despite the loosening of gun laws.

Almost none of the remedies proposed in the wake of mass shootings would have actually prevented those crimes (though had so-called bump stocks been banned—as they should be—fewer would have died in the Las Vegas shooting last month).

Indeed, it's common in the aftermath of shootings to hear pundits and politicians call for the passage of laws that already exist. I've lost count of the number of times people have insisted that "machine guns" be banned—they essentially already are. Others talk about banning "assault weapons" as if such a designation describes a specific kind of weapon. It doesn't. Nor would banning assault weapons, however defined, put much of a dent in the problem. Rifles of all kinds account for just 3 percent of the murder rate.

The slaughter at a Texas church on Sunday fits the pattern. Calls went out for background checks. But the shooter passed his; he just lied on the application. Some argued that people convicted of spousal abuse—like the shooter—should be barred from getting a gun. That's already federal law. (To be sure, such laws should be enforced better than the Trump administration seems inclined to do.)

More broadly, President Trump and a GOP-controlled Congress will not do anything significant to restrict gun rights in America. And the experience under President Obama, particularly in the wake of the Sandy Hook shooting, demonstrates that even some Democrats don't want to move against their electoral self-interest.

Indeed, the main reason for inaction isn't the "stranglehold" of the National Rifle Association—a relative piker when it comes to political spending—but the fact that millions of gun owners are likely to vote on the gun issue, while millions of gun-control supporters are not. Also, a supermajority of Americans (76 percent to 23 percent, according to Gallup) do not want a ban on private gun ownership.

These facts probably help explain why the NRA has taken a dark turn of late, releasing ads that have virtually nothing to do with gun laws and everything to do with fueling cultural resentment. It's hard for a public policy lobbying outfit to keep membership dues flowing when they've already won.

Meanwhile, anti-gun campaigners cling to the belief that they are a cadre of dedicated pragmatists who merely seek sensible gun-control laws. No doubt there are some who fit this description. But given how the most vocal advocates of gun control tend to get basic facts wrong and have a history of praising countries such as Australia, which all but banned guns outright for normal citizens, it's easy to see why gun-rights supporters are suspicious about what their real goal is.

In 2015, the New York Times ran its first front-page editorial in 95 years to call for, in part, the confiscation of millions of guns. Last month, columnist Bret Stephens called for outright repeal of the Second Amendment.

The simple fact is that many elites in places such as New York and Los Angeles, regardless of ideology (Stephens is a conservative), just don't like guns or the culture of people who do. One can see this in the suddenly pervasive fad—common in the pages of the New York Times and on Twitter—of mocking people who offer "thoughts and prayers" for the victims of mass shootings if they don't also subscribe to sweeping new gun-control measures.

It's a useful thought experiment to ask what America would look like if the gun controllers started to rack up policy victories, confiscating guns from law-abiding gun owners. Aside from the massive financial windfall for the NRA, millions of Americans would have their darkest suspicions confirmed, and the deep resentment already felt in much of "red state" America would intensify beyond anything we've experienced lately.

Perhaps there would be fewer mass murders and other gun deaths—though I'm skeptical. I'm sure our politics would be far uglier than they already are.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why are we OK with mass shootings?

By LEONARD PITTS JR.
Miami Herald

Leonard Pitts Jr., winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, is a columnist for the Miami Herald*, 3511 N.W. 91 Avenue, Doral, Fla. 33172. Readers may write to him via email at lpitts@miamiherald.com.*

I hate mass shootings.

Everybody hates them, of course: innocent death, fathers, fiances, best friends, and sons snatched violently away, sudden carnage crashing ordinary days. But I hate them for an additional reason.

When things like this happen, you see, it's my job to have something to say. And I've got nothing. More accurately, I've got nothing left that I haven't already said.

Shall I parse the killer's motivations? I did that after Columbine.

Shall I praise heroism in the midst of massacre? I did that after Aurora.

Shall I call out the evil in this world? I did that after Virginia Tech.

Shall I demand a re-examination of our gun laws? I did that after Umpqua Community College.

And it's a mark of how often this sort of thing happens, how routine it has become, that you probably don't even remember Umpqua. Or Isla Vista.

So no, I've got nothing _ and even that is something I've said before.

The need to have something is, as you doubtless know, occasioned by our latest atrocity: 26 people shot dead in a rural church near San Antonio. Half of the victims reportedly were children, including a toddler 18 months old. The 26-year-old killer, reportedly motivated by a domestic dispute, shot babies point blank, according to an eyewitness.

Yet even at that wretched extreme, the whole thing feels routine, just another Sunday in America. Which leaves me with nothing. Except a question:

Why are we OK with this?

Not you and me as individuals, perhaps. But America, as a corporate body? It seems ever more obvious that for all the lip service we pay to "thoughts and prayers," for all the candles we light and tears we weep, this is a thing we accept. As opposed to Islamic terror, which we don't. You can read the distinction starkly in Donald Trump's tweets.

After a Muslim shot up a nightclub in Orlando, the then-candidate decried our lack of toughness and demanded a ban on Muslim travel.

After a non-Muslim killed nearly 60 people in Las Vegas and wounded over 500 more, he said the killer's "wires were crossed pretty badly in his brain."

After a Muslim killed eight people in New York City, he mused about sending him to Gitmo and demanded the "DEATH PENALTY."

After Sunday's murders by a non-Muslim, he promised to stand with the people of Sutherland Springs.

It's not that Trump won't condemn a non-Muslim killer, but that he saves his greatest energy and outrage for the killer who claims to worship Islam, even though the former is the far deadlier threat.

And though Trump is often an outlier, his moral inconsistency here seems to reflect America's own. Do you think that if the Texas killer had had an exotic name or begun his attack with a cry of "Allahu Akbar!" our responses would be limited to thoughts and prayers and lawmakers would be content to mouth impotent pieties?

As a wag named Michael Skolnik pointed out on Twitter, "One shoe bomber tried to blow up a plane and now we take off our shoes." When the killer is not a Muslim, though, we treat the killing like rain, a natural vexation we lament but also accept because, what are you going to do?

But this is not rain, just a different kind of murder. Why are we OK with it?

The answer is obvious, but until we can bring ourselves to face it, we will be ill equipped to find ways of preventing tragedies like this. They will come again and again and again and again and again, numbing repetitive carnage. It will never end.

Not until it stops being OK.

LITERARY NOOK

Hit the road, Jack!

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nunc Dimittis: Now Let Thou Depart

The first words in Latin is in the Canticle of Simeon, found in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2, New Testament.

Please depart as our country quakes
we can take the insults and ignorance
everyone is tired of your golfing breaks
glimmers of rational thought by chance.
Please leave DACA immigrants alone
we can handle laughter by world leaders
try to stay off constant use of tweet phone
focus and become a new legislation reader.
Please exit stage left with the alt right
take your cabinet with you the ignorant bunch
if there are any left even those flying out of sight
take your seventeen lawyers too after a power lunch.
Please hit the road down Defeated Dumpty Trail
call your next book How To Win and Tragically Fail.

Top of the Class from Bigly Nursery

A sonnet for the first election anniversary

of a big baby graduate from Bigly Nursery
founder of business scam Trump University
millions for diplomas criminal and cursory
can't get policies or names of countries right
embarrassing the United States around the world
saying 'I'm smart' proves he's not very bright
disgraceful words when SOB vulgarities hurled
he doesn't trust us, cussed us, we sense collusion
on the trash heap of history he lives in delusion
so we begin the second year with Bigly at the helm
who knows what horrors are next in his unreal realm
he should check into a Bigly Senior Nursing Home
unable to care for our nation, but that's another poem.

Trump and Tweet Three Years To Go

Trump and tweet filled cyber space throughout 2017
all tricks and no legislative treats is all we have seen
when voters go to voting booths in the next election
will the Tyrant of Tweets face outright rejection
will there be any votes for Trump University's dean.
Trump and Tweet campaign rallies till the year 2020
can you take three more years of President Not Funny
how much longer can our country's voters take it
how much longer can Bigly Bling Baby fake it
will the Koch brothers and Mercers still put up money.
Trump and Pence in office for three more years
who knows where the many investigations steer
who knows how many more in DC will be indicted
will justice prevail and will everyone be delighted
will we weep for our nation with RNC elephant tears.

Golf & Gaffes Gaff the US Gags Again

I drained the swamp made some mistakes
some got arrested and turned against me
I loaded the cabinet with rich sneaky snakes
and struggled to get under par from the tee.
I tweeted thick headed nonsense every day
skipped boring policy bulletins and watched TV
then off to one of my own golf courses to play
then back to the tube to watch more about me.
My first year in office is soon coming up
have I lost more than half of my cabinet already
gotta work on getting that ball into the cup
work on my swing and keep my course steady.
I need more adulation and more of me on TV
most important though is time on the course for me.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DOD, where's the CNMI's grants?

I just read about Delegate Madeleine Bordallo leading the effort for Guam to secure two U.S. Department of Defense grants totaling $129,914,022 that will be used for civilian infrastructure projects related to the realignment of Marines to Guam. Kudos to the delegate and to Guam but I'm concerned about what kind of grants DOD is going to provide the CNMI. The need for the grants are clearly justifiable for Guam and the military activities here will not be as instructive as they will be in Guam. However, there will be military activities here that will require additional civilian infrastructure like improvements at the airport(s), new and improved roads, the disposal of waste, the increase in the water supply, possible sound barriers for the firing range, hospital emergency upgrades, extending the power grid and the list can go on but I think the point is made. The CNMI will need some assistance with existing civilian infrastructure, given the military activities that will be conducted.

My question is, has our delegate or our government "planned" to acquire the same type of grants for civilian infrastructure as Guam? While I know the amount for the CNMI will be much lower, given the magnitude of Guam's challenges compared to the CNMI's, I also know that the CNMI should be getting something! Seeking these grants may already be part of the governor's plan and, if it is, please let the people know because many voters are going to be asking and wondering. I just know from living here since 1989 that Guam is usually the "early bird who gets most of the worms" for the Marianas.

But I haven't seen any other CNMI governor work so closely and get so much support from the President. Our governor appears to be doing a really fantastic job in getting the ear and support of the President and his chief of staff, so getting the grants may not be a problem if we have done the work. But the question is, have we done the work and are we even ready with any kind of estimate to even make the request for the DOD grants? I'm glad for the people of Guam but I would be a lot happier knowing the CNMI is also in line to get some DOD grants for civilian infrastructure.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

MASSACRE

From Page 10

What to do?

Because the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that the Second Amendment guarantees individuals the right to own guns, bans on specific weapons or other strict measures are not on the horizon. But there are steps Congress can take to reduce the opportunities for armed villains to kill. Among them:

Require background checks for every gun purchase, including those at gun shows and transactions between private parties.

Limit the capacity of magazine clips to, say, 10 rounds. That would force an assailant to frequently reload or switch weapons, buying time for victims to escape, good Samaritans to overtake him and law enforcement to arrive.

Ban "bump stock" devices that convert semi-automatic rifles into machine gun-like weapons. The Las Vegas shooter used bump stocks. In the wake of that massacre, members of Congress who support gun rights and the National Rifle Association said they were ready to consider a ban on bump stocks, thus heralding a potentially important step in the gun control debate. We haven't heard much about that proposed federal ban since early October. Amid the sadness in South Texas, members of Congress have a promise to keep.

Nor is Springfield on the case. In late October, an effort to ban bump stocks and comparable devices died in the Illinois General Assembly.

Each mass shooting in America is its own terrible story that can't be undone. The responsible perspective is to use the shock of the moment to take actions that will save lives in the future.

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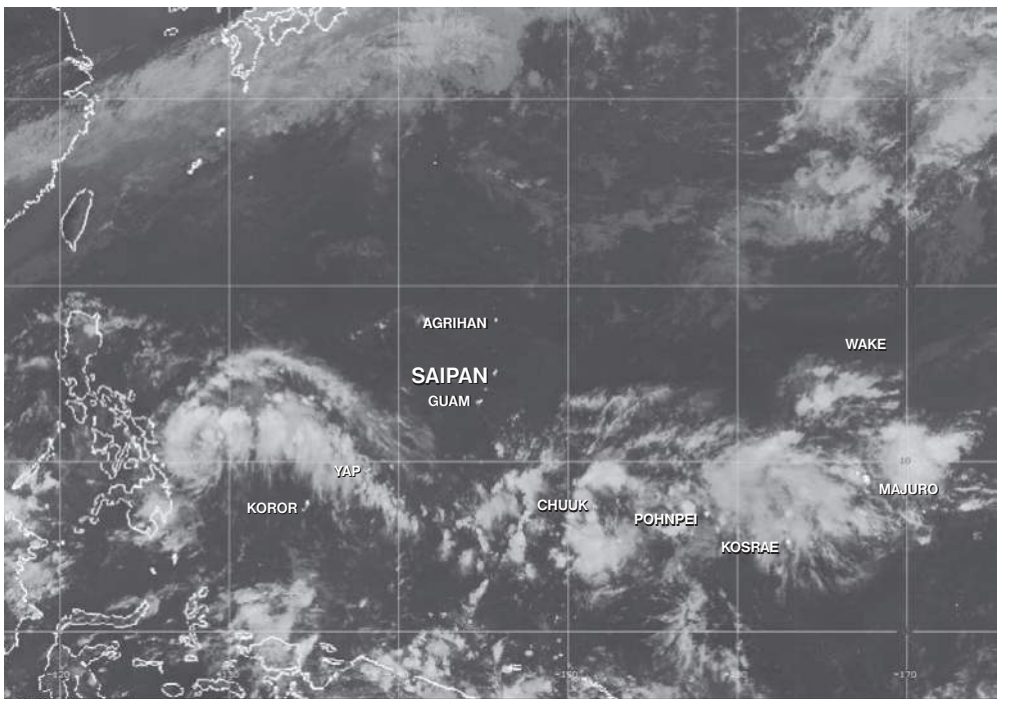
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:55 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The forecast remains the same the next few days as winds and seas slowly decrease. Only isolated showers are expected, and even those should decrease Thursday through the weekend as the low-level moist layer becomes very shallow.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	64° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	52° / 28°
Hong Kong	Sunny	84° / 73°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	70° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Melbourne	Cloudy	77° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	82° / 75°
New York	Mostly Sunny	56° / 39°
Osaka	Sunny	66° / 57°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Busan	Sunny	70° / 45°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 45°
Salem	Rain	66° / 46°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 51°
Seoul	Rain	61° / 37°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	61° / 57°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	56° / 39°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:20 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.40
12:34 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.95
6:17 PM	LOW TIDE	1.18
10:44 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:03 am	10:49 pm
Friday	-	11:58 am	11:48 pm
Saturday	-	12:48 pm	-
Sunday	12:45 am	12:48 pm	-
Monday	1:39 am	2:19 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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$12.95
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Business

GOP blocks Dem attempts to boost tax benefits for parents

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans on Tuesday blocked Democratic efforts to secure bigger tax benefits for parents' costs of raising or adopting children, as they drove toward wrapping up their tax overhaul by week's end.

The daylong debate by the Ways and Means Committee came as the Senate's tax bill started to take shape. That version is expected to completely repeal the federal deduction for state and local taxes, a flashpoint of contention for Republican lawmakers from high-tax states like New York and New Jersey, as well as Democrats. Concessions were made in the House bill with a partial repeal.

The Senate measure also would retain the medical expense deduction, which the House plan eliminates. And the Senate would retain today's seven personal income tax brackets, not collapse them into four like the House bill.

Republicans hope to get Democratic support for their politically necessary legislation, and President Donald Trump's top economic adviser Gary Cohn met with Senate Democrats on Tuesday as Trump phoned in from his Asia trip.

Democrats weren't buying Trump's argument that the emerging GOP tax bill is "terrible for rich people." Ohio Democrat Sen. Sherrod Brown said Trump made that claim during the call.

But Brown said the Democrats adamantly disagree, telling reporters, "This bill is clearly overwhelmingly serving the rich." Brown said Trump likes Democratic ideas such as boosting the earned income and child tax credits for working families, but GOP leaders don't seem interested in them.

The House tax-writing panel voted 23-16 along party lines to reject Democratic amendments affecting parents. In its second marathon day of amendments and votes on the sweeping, nearly $6 trillion bill, the committee also rolled over other Democratic proposals, including one that would have forced businesses to suffer the same loss of the deduction for state and local taxes as individuals.

The GOP plan calls for repealing the adoption tax credit, a move roundly condemned by Democrats. One of the defeated Democratic proposals would have restored the adoption credit and allowed it to be fully refundable.

The proposal's sponsor, Rep. Danny Davis, D-Ill., said its aim was "so that more families can benefit and more waiting children can be adopted."

Davis said that In 2014, more than 73,000 U.S. households claimed the adoption tax credit, with an average value of $4,802. However, he added, nearly 60 percent of the credit went to families with annual incomes over $100,000.

The GOP plan also includes an increase in the child tax credit, to $1,600 from $1,000 per child. The amendment by Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif., that was defeated would have added a $3,600 credit for families with children under age 6.

Trump and the Republicans need to show the tax bill—it would be the first major revamp of the tax code in 30 years—as a solid legislative accomplishment after a year of failure. At least one House Republican was blunt about the pressure from campaign-money donors to produce. "My donors are basically saying get it done or don't ever call me again," Rep. Chris Collins. R-N.Y., told reporters.

Trump visits Beijing amid mounting tensions over trade

BEIJING (AP)—After a brief truce with China to cooperate on North Korea, President Donald Trump visits Beijing this week amid mounting U.S. trade complaints, with limited prospects for progress on market access, technology policy and other sore points.

The strains between the world's two biggest economies are fueling anxiety among global companies and advocates of free trade that they could retreat into protectionism, dragging down growth.

Washington accuses Beijing of backsliding on market-opening promises, and Trump said last week that the U.S. trade deficit with China—$347 billion last year—is "so bad that it's embarrassing."

"I don't want to embarrass anybody four days before I land in China, but it's horrible," said Trump.

His government has raised import duties on Chinese aluminum foil, stainless steel and plywood, and is investigating whether Beijing improperly pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

If they discuss trade during the two-day visit, Chinese President Xi Jinping's government is unlikely to offer enough "to appease U.S. negotiators," said John Davies of BMI Research.

That is likely to lead to "more protectionist measures on the part of the U.S.," said Davies.

While Trump is looking to boost sagging public approval ratings, the Chinese leader enters their meeting on a political high.

The ruling Communist Party added Xi's name to its constitution at a twice-a-decade congress last month, giving him status equal to Mao Zedong, founder of the communist government, and Deng Xiaoping, who launched economic reforms in 1979.

At the congress, Xi promised to open the economy wider but affirmed plans to build up state-owned companies that dominate industries including finance, energy and telecoms. That, along with plans for government-led development of electric cars and other technology, makes foreign companies worry that Beijing is squeezing them out of promising fields.

The chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, William Zarit, expressed concern that Trump appears to have done too little to prepare and said some companies worry his focus on trade in goods will mean he does too little about such "structural issues." Zarit said those include limits on access to finance, health care and other industries.

In contrast to "advance work" for previous presidential trips to Beijing, "there really hasn't been much of that for this visit, which makes us a bit concerned that there may not be much discussion on the structural issues," said Zarit, a former American diplomat.

A senior administration official who briefed reporters in Washington denied that Trump hasn't adequately prepared.

"We've analyzed this probably more than most administrations," said the official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified further.

The official said Beijing has shifted to "moving away from market-based principles" and Washington wants movement toward a "market-oriented" system.

Nation

Texas church gunman once escaped from mental health center

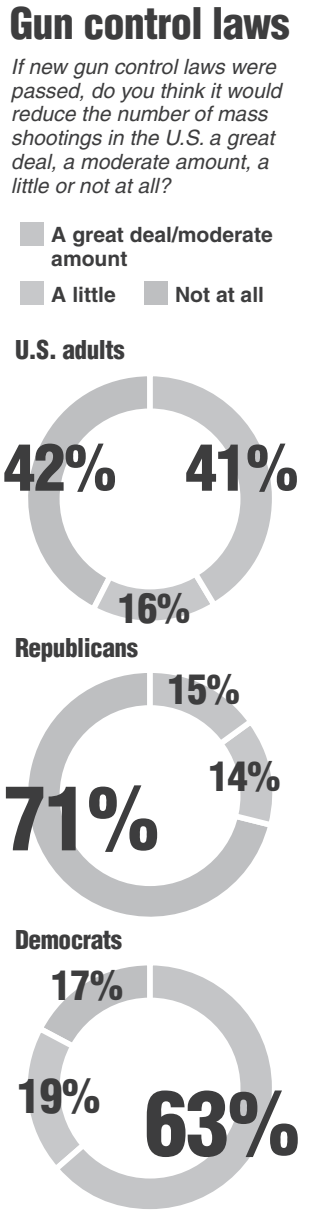
SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas (AP)—The gunman who carried out the massacre at a small-town Texas church briefly escaped from a mental health center in New Mexico in 2012 and got in trouble for bringing guns onto a military base and threatening his superiors there, police reports indicate.

Devin Patrick Kelley was also named as a suspect in a 2013 sexual assault in his Texas hometown of New Braunfels, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) from the scene of the church attack.

The records that emerged Tuesday add up to at least three missed opportunities that might have offered law enforcement a way to stop Kelley from having access to guns long before he slaughtered much of the congregation in the middle of a Sunday service. Authorities said the death toll of 26 included the unborn baby of one of the women killed. Kelley died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after he was chased by bystanders and crashed his car.

The Air Force confirmed Tuesday that Kelley had been treated in the facility after he was placed under pretrial confinement stemming from a court-martial on charges that he assaulted his then-wife and hit her child hard enough to fracture the boy's skull.

Involuntary commitment to a mental institution would have been grounds to deny him a weapon provided that records of his confinement were submitted to the federal database used to conduct background checks on people who try to purchase guns.



Source: Gallup
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Kelley was also caught trying to bring guns onto Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico when he was stationed there, according to an El Paso, Texas, police report released Tuesday.

While in the military, Kelley, who was 21 at the time, made death threats against superior officers, according to the June 2012 report, which also mentioned the military charges. He was eventually sentenced to 12 months of confinement for the assault.

The Air Force acknowledged Monday that it did not enter Kelley's criminal history into the federal database as required by military rules, another way he could have been denied a weapon.

Had Kelley been convicted of sexual assault, he would likely have been prevented from purchasing a gun because federal guidelines prohibit sales to anyone convicted of a felony punishable by more than one year in prison. The Comal County sheriff said he was reviewing whether his department mishandled the sexual assault investigation.

Authorities recovered a Ruger AR-556 rifle at the church and two handguns from the shooter's vehicle. All three weapons were purchased by Kelley, said Fred Milanowski, the agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Houston.

Democrats sweep Virginia, New Jersey governor's races

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Voters in Virginia and New Jersey gave Democratic gubernatorial candidates large victories Tuesday and sent a clear message of rebuke to Republican President Donald Trump.

In Virginia's hard-fought contest, Democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam defeated Republican Ed Gillespie. In New Jersey, front-running Democrat Phil Murphy overcame Republican Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno to succeed unpopular GOP Gov. Chris Christie.

"The days of division are over. We will move forward," Murphy said in his victory speech.

The wins in Virginia and New Jersey are a morale boost to Democrats who had so far been unable to channel anti-Trump energy into success at the ballot box in a major election this year.

"The people are gonna rise up. They're not gonna take what he says and this is not fake news," said Leanna Barnes, a 76-year-old from East Orange, New Jersey, who voted for Murphy and added she saw his victory as a message to the president.

Virginia college student Tamia Mallory said she began paying attention to her state's gubernatorial race when she saw tweets from Trump endorsing Gillespie. That motivated her to examine the race and find out who was running against Gillespie, she said.

"It was kind of an anti-Trump vote," Mallory said.

Northam, the state's lieutenant governor, repeatedly sought during long months of divisive campaigning to tie Gillespie to the president. His victory was in large part due to the surge in anti-Trump sentiment since the president took office. Democrats said they had record levels of enthusiasm heading into the race in Virginia, a swing-state and the only Southern state that Trump lost last year.

Gillespie, meanwhile, sought to keep Trump at a distance throughout the campaign but tried to rally the president's supporters with hard-edge attack ads focused on illegal immigration and preserving Confederate statues. The strategy was criticized by Democrats and some Republicans as race baiting, but drew praise from former Trump strategist Steve Bannon and others as a canny way to win a state that voted for Hillary Clinton last year.

Trump lent limited pre-election support to Gillespie with robocalls and tweets.

Asia

Trump warns North Korea: Do not 'try us'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—President Donald Trump delivered a sharp warning to North Korea Wednesday, telling the rogue nation: "Do not underestimate us. And do not try us."

In a speech delivered hours after he aborted a visit to the heavily fortified Korean demilitarized zone due to bad weather, Trump said he had a message for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

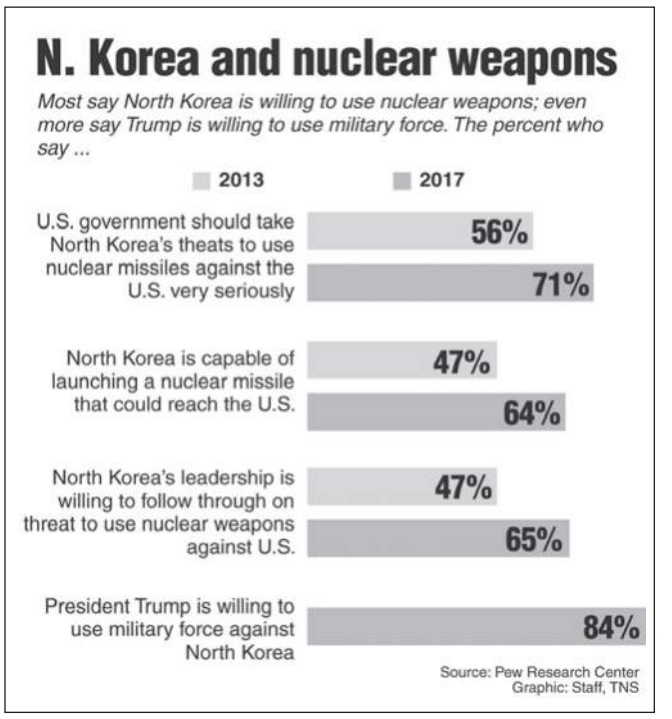
"The weapons you are acquiring are not making you safer, they are putting your regime in grave danger," Trump told an audience of South Korean lawmakers, calling on all nations to join forces "to isolate the brutal regime of North Korea."

"The world cannot tolerate the menace of a rogue regime that threatens with nuclear devastation," he said.

Trump had hoped to underscore his message with an early morning visit to the DMZ, but his plans were thwarted by heavy fog that prevented his helicopter from landing at the heavily fortified border that has separated the North and South for the last 64 years.

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump delivers a speech as South Korea's National Assembly Speaker Chung Sye-kyun, top, listens at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017.


N. Korea and nuclear weapons
Most say North Korea is willing to use nuclear weapons; even more say Trump is willing to use military force. The percent who say ...
2013
2017
U.S. government should take North Korea's theats to use nuclear missiles against the U.S. very seriously
56%
71%
North Korea is capable of launching a nuclear missile that could reach the U.S.
47%
64%
North Korea's leadership is willing to follow through on threat to use nuclear weapons against U.S.
47%
65%
President Trump is willing to use military force against North Korea
84%
Source: Pew Research Center
Graphic: Staff, TNS

The Marine One helicopter left Seoul at daybreak and flew most of the way to the DMZ, but was forced to turn back just five minutes out due to poor weather conditions. Reporters traveling in a separate helicopter as part of the president's envoy saw fog through the windows, and weather reports from near the heavily fortified border showed misting conditions and visibility below one mile. Pilots, officials said, could not see the other helicopters in the air.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the president was disappointed he couldn't make the trip. "I think he's pretty frustrated," she told reporters. "It was obviously something he wanted to do."

Before he left for Asia, a White House official had ruled out a DMZ visit for Trump, claiming the president didn't have time on his schedule and that DMZ visits have become a little cliché.

But Sanders said the visit had been planned well before Trump's departure for Asia. The trip was kept secret for security reasons, she said.

The aborted visit came hours before Trump addressed the South Korean National Assembly as he closed out his two-day visit to the nation and headed to his next stop, Beijing.

In the speech, Trump painted a bleak portrait of life in North Korea, describing citizens as bribing government officials to leave the country just so they can work as slaves. He contrasted the poverty and desperation to thriving South Korea—home to a long list of top-rated golfers, he noted.

Trump said the U.S. will not allow its cities to be threatened with destruction, and said that, while America "does not seek conflict or confrontation," it will not run from it, either.

"The regime has interpreted America's past restraint as weakness. This would be a fatal miscalculation?," Trump said. "This is a very different administration than the United States has had in the past."

He also called on all nations to downgrade diplomatic and economic ties with the North and fully implement a series of U.N. Security Council measures, specifically calling out Russia and China, whose leaders he will meet in coming days.

ASIAN BRIEFS

IS suicide bomber hits local TV in Kabul; at least 2 killed

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber and another attacker struck a local TV station in Kabul on Tuesday, killing at least two guards in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group. Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said the a male and a female security guard at Shamshad TV were killed in the attack, adding that both attackers were killed by security forces. He said police rescued some of the TV staff as the attack was unfolding but he did not elaborate. Health Ministry spokesman Wahid Mujro said 21 people wounded in the attack were taken to hospitals.

Death toll from Vietnam storm climbs to 89 ahead of summit

DANANG, Vietnam (AP)—The death toll from a typhoon that struck Vietnam's south-central coast last weekend, causing widespread flooding, has risen to 89 with 18 others still missing, the government said Tuesday. Typhoon Damrey caused extensive damage ahead of this week's Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that will be attended by leaders from around the world, although those meetings that start Wednesday in the central city of Danang will not be affected. However, the ancient town of Hoi An, a 30-minute drive away, was badly flooded and it remains unclear whether scheduled visits Saturday by the spouses of APEC leaders will go ahead. An official from the National Committee for Search and Rescue Operations said soldiers, police, militiamen and villagers have been mobilized to search for the missing. Those who perished were killed by collapsing houses, washed away by floods or drowned in capsized ships.

Taiwanese fighter jet goes missing above East China Sea

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A Taiwanese fighter jet has gone missing while flying above the East China Sea north of Taiwan during a routine patrol, the air force said Wednesday. The Mirage-2000 disappeared from radar screens just over a half-hour after taking off Tuesday evening from an air base in Hsinchu, south of the capital, Taipei, according to an air force statement. China's official Xinhua News Agency said navy ships and more than a dozen aircraft have been dispatched to search the area but with no result as of midday Wednesday. It said the pilot, Ko Tse-yu, joined the air force more than a decade ago and had 227 hours of flight time in Mirages.

PH backs down in S. China Sea after Beijing protest

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte stopped construction work on a newly formed sandbar in the disputed South China Sea after China protested, the defense chief said Wednesday, disclosing details of the new territorial spat for the first time.

The dispute over a string of sandbars called Sandy Cay emerged in August and prompted China and the Philippines to consider negotiating some sort of protocol or arrangement to allow both sides to prevent such incidents from spiraling out of control, Lorenzana said.

The rift over the tiny sandbar near the Philippine-occupied Thitu island in the Spratlys archipelago remains unresolved but both sides pledged not to occupy any new territory, he said.

China's claims to most of the South China Sea overlap with those by the Philippines and four other governments. Despite that, tensions have eased since Duterte took over as president last year and took steps to thaw once-frosty relations Beijing.

Duterte has courted Chinese trade and assistance and taken a nonconfrontational approach to their territorial disputes. He has refused to immediately take up with China a ruling by a U.N.-linked tribunal that invalidated Beijing's sprawling claims in the South China Sea, sparking criticism from nationalists and left-wing groups that wanted him to demand Chinese compliance with the landmark decision immediately.

"We tried to put some structures in one of the sandbars near our island and the Chinese reacted," Lorenzana told a diplomatic forum in Manila, adding that Duterte later ordered, "Let's pull out."

Duterte made the decision after Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano advised him of an agreement involving China and the Philippines for a halt on new construction in the disputed waters, Lorenzana later told a news conference. Philippine foreign affairs and military officials refused to divulge details of the dispute at Sandy Cay in August.

Two senior Philippine security officials told The Associated Press at the time that three Chinese navy ships, a coast guard vessel and 10 fishing boats began keeping watch on Sandy Cay after spotting the Filipinos on the barren sandbar.

A government security report seen by the AP in August said three Chinese navy ships, a Chinese coast guard ship and 10 Chinese fishing vessels took positions off Sandy Cay. Its nearest sandbar is about 2.5 nautical miles (4.6 kilometers) from Philippine-occupied Thitu Island.

On Aug. 15, a blue Chinese helicopter flew low off Thitu's southwest coast, the report said.

Philippine troops and villagers based at Thitu call it Pag-asa—Tagalog for hope—while the Chinese call the island Zhongye Dao.

The Chinese military presence off Sandy Cay near Thitu sparked concerns in Manila.

Philippine Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, who has studied the disputes extensively, said then that the Chinese navy ships and other vessels encroached in the Philippine island's 12-nautical mile (22-kilometer) territorial waters.

"In short, Sandy Cay is a Philippine land territory that is being seized, to put it mildly, or being invaded, to put it frankly, by China," Carpio said in a statement.

The long-unresolved disputes are expected to be among the issues that would get the spotlight in an annual summit of Southeast Asian nations and their Asian and Western counterparts in Manila next week. Lorenzana welcomed progress in efforts by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which includes four claimant countries in the South China Sea, and China to negotiate a so-called code of conduct to prevent armed conflicts from erupting in the strategic waters.

World

10 arrests in French, Swiss raids over suspected attack plot

PARIS (AP)—Ten people suspected of using encrypted social networks to prepare a possible attack were arrested Tuesday during counterterrorism operations in France and Switzerland aimed at clarifying details of the alleged plot, according to French officials.

A 23-year-old Colombian woman and 27-year-old Swiss man, both targets in a Swiss investigation of the Islamic State group, were among the suspects detained.

Counterterrorism investigators detained nine people between the ages of 18 and 65 in France and one person in Switzerland, according to a French judicial official. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation, would not provide details about their identities.

The suspects were being questioned following searches of properties in the Paris suburbs and in southeastern France. Some of the suspects previously had been flagged for alleged Islamic radicalization, according to the judicial official and a French police official. Two are brothers, the officials said.

The Swiss suspect, who was among those arrested in France, allegedly had ties to a 13-year-old who was arrested earlier on suspicion of plotting a knife attack, the judicial official said.

The mayor of the French Riviera city of Nice, Christian Estrosi, thanked police for the arrests. His office said Estrosi was speaking with France's interior minister about the investigation, but neither City Hall nor the judicial official would confirm reports that the suspected attack plot targeted Nice.

The city remains scarred after the July 2016 truck attack that killed 86 people watching a Bastille Day fireworks display from a seaside promenade.

A French security official said the alleged plot did not appear to be fully developed but authorities acted Tuesday out of concern that the group was moving toward action.

In parallel to the Swiss investigation, French authorities opened a probe in July focused on suspicious activity by a person in Switzerland using the encrypted Telegram network, according to the French judicial official. The suspect, based in Switzerland, had communicated with people in France on social networks about unspecified violent acts, the official said.

Among the French towns targeted in the operation were Aix-en-Provence in southern France and Menton on the Mediterranean coast, as well as Paris suburbs, according to a French security official.

The office of Swiss Attorney General Michael Lauber said the arrest there followed searches of buildings in the French-speaking Vaud and Neuchatel regions of western Switzerland.

The Swiss investigation originally targeted a 27-year-old Swiss man and was more recently extended to include the Colombian woman, neither of whom was identified by name. Lauber's office said the woman was expected to remain in custody until she appears before a court.

The arrests came days after a new counterterrorism law took effect in France. The law replaces a state of emergency that had been in place since the deadly Paris attacks.

French Interior Minister Gerard Collomb appeared to downplay the arrests, telling reporters during a visit to Germany on Tuesday that, "in a relatively habitual way, we arrest a certain number of individuals who appear that they could be dangerous."

AP

A French police officer talks to French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe during his visit to mark the end of a two-year state of emergency imposed in France, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017 near the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Ousted Catalan leader challenges EU to speak out on crisis

BRUSSELS (AP)—Catalonia's ousted leader vowed Tuesday to prolong the fight for independence from Spain and urged the European Union to speak out over the jailing of Catalan officials in a rebellion case.

Carles Puigdemont's comments came at a campaign-style rally in Belgium's capital attended by around 200 mayors from Catalonia who greeted the deposed president with chants of "president" and "freedom."

The mayors raised their walking sticks, a symbol of mayoral power in Spain, in the air at the end of his speech and the crowd sang the Catalan anthem.

"We will never renounce this ideal of a country, of this notion of democracy," Puigdemont told the mayors, gathered in a central Brussels art museum.

Flanked by four associates who fled Spain with him, Puigdemont challenged the Spanish authorities and international community to accept the results of a snap Catalan election on Dec. 21 if separatists win.

Puigdemont and his colleagues could face 30 years in jail in Spain on charges of rebellion, sedition and embezzlement if Belgian justice authorities agree to extradite them. Nine former Catalan government members have already been sent to jail in Spain. One of them was released on bail during the investigation.

"We are the legitimate government of Catalonia and we are going to carry on," former regional government member Meritxell Serret told the audience, her voice breaking with emotion.

Puigdemont also challenged the European Union to finally make its voice heard. Catalan officials at the Brussels event Tuesday urged European Union leaders to take up the Catalan cause.

"Is this the Europe you want, is this the Europe you want to build, with a democratically elected government in jail?" he said before a group of mayors held up big letters spelling "Help Catalonia."

The leaders of all the EU's main institutions are party allies of Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy. They have refused to criticize his government, and only reacted very cautiously to police violence during the Oct. 1 independence referendum in Catalonia.

Hours earlier, Puigdemont did an interview in Brussels with Catalan public radio.

The separatist leader said that there is an "absolute disconnect between the interests of the people and the European elites" and that Catalonia's problem is an "issue of human rights that requires maximum attention."

Puigdemont is fighting extradition to Spain, where other members of the ousted Cabinet have been sent to jail while awaiting the results of a probe for allegedly implementing a strategy to secede from Spain. His next hearing before a Belgian court is on Nov. 17.

Russia and West clash over blaming Syria for chemical use

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Russia clashed with Western nations Tuesday over a report blaming Syria for a deadly chemical weapons attack, with Moscow dismissing its findings as "mythical or invented" and the U.S. backing its finger-pointing at President Bashar Assad's regime.

The debate in the Security Council during a meeting on the report reflected the sharp differences between Russia, Syria's most important ally, and Western countries that have backed Assad's opponents.

It also raised serious questions about whether the mandate of the experts who issued the report will be renewed—and whether anyone in Syria will ever be held accountable for using chemical weapons, which are banned internationally.

Russia and the United States have circulated rival resolutions to extend the experts' body, known as the Joint Investigative Mechanism, or JIM. Its mandate expires Nov. 14.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley told the Security Council that a revised U.S. draft circulated Tuesday included some points from the Russian draft, including the importance of high standards and sound evidence.

But she said Russia continues "to push unacceptable language only meant to undermine the investigators and divide this council."

Russia vetoed a U.S.-sponsored council resolution Oct. 24 that would have renewed the mandate of the experts from the United Nations and the international chemical weapons watchdog for a year. It said it wanted to wait to see the JIM report on the sarin nerve gas attack on the town of Khan Sheikhoun and a mustard gas attack at Um Hosh in Aleppo in September 2016.

Two days later, the JIM reported its leaders were "confident" that Syria was responsible for an aerial attack on Khan Sheikhoun on April 4 using sarin that killed about 100 people and affected about 200 others who survived "acute exposure" to the nerve agent. The conclusion supported the initial findings by the United States, France and Britain.

The experts also said they were "confident" the Islamic State extremist group was responsible for the Um Hosh attack using mustard gas.

Assistant Secretary-General Edmond Mulet, who heads the JIM, told the council how experts reached their conclusions, including finding that the chemistry of the sarin used in Khan Sheikhoun was very likely to have been made from the same precursor, called DF, as the sarin in Syria's original stockpile.

In September 2013, Syria accepted a Russian proposal to relinquish its chemical weapons stockpile and join the Chemical Weapons Convention. That averted a U.S. military strike in response to an alleged chemical weapons attack that killed hundreds in the Damascus suburb of Ghouta.

Mulet said the Security Council has "a unique responsibility" to deter all those using chemical weapons and "end the use of such weapons forever."

"I understand the political issues surrounding the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic," he said. "However, this is not a political issue about the lives of innocent civilians. Impunity must not prevail."

Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Vladimir Safronkov, was sharply critical of the JIM and the report, especially the experts' failure to visit Khan Sheikhoun, which Mulet said was for security reasons.

Environment

TNS

Loren Fish shows a vaquita stretcher custom-made in Hong Kong. Fish is animal care manager at the on-shore "vaquita care center" where the animal would initially be monitored closely before being taken to an off-shore sea pen. A vaquita porpoise captured by an international group of scientists attempting to save the species has died.

An endangered vaquita porpoise dies in captivity

By SANDRA DIBBLE
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

SAN DIEGO—A vaquita porpoise captured by an international group of scientists attempting to save the species has died, prompting a re-evaluation of an extensive effort launched last month in Mexico's Upper Gulf of California.

"The entire rescue team is heartbroken by this devastating loss," read a statement sent Sunday by VaquitaCPR (Vaquita Conservation, Protection and Recovery), the name of the operation led by Mexico's Environmental Ministry with close collaboration from the San Diego-based National Marine Mammal Foundation.

With fewer than 30 vaquita believed to be alive, the death is a crushing blow to an intricately planned — and admittedly risky — effort to save the species by attempting for the first time to capture the animals alive and remove them from their habitat. The operation was launched in mid-October off the coast of San Felipe in Baja California, enlisting some of the world's top marine mammal experts.

The statement said the dead vaquita had been captured late Saturday afternoon, describing her as a mature female who was not pregnant or lactating. The animal had been transported to a floating sea pen off the coast of San Felipe, and placed under observation "and constant care for its health and safety," the statement said.

Marine mammal veterinarians "noticed the animal's condition began to deteriorate and made the determination to release," the statement said. However, "the release was unsuccessful and life-saving measures were administered."

The news of the vaquita's death came just hours after an upbeat announcement by Mexico's environmental secretary, Rafael Pacchiano, immediately following the animal's capture.

"It is a great achievement that fills us with hope," Pacchiano said in a tweet.

The secretary said in a tweet on Sunday afternoon announcing the animal's death that "we remain committed to saving the vaquita from extinction."

This was the second vaquita captured since the effort began in mid-October. A female calf about six months old was quickly released after its capture on Oct. 18 after she showed signs of stress.

The current operation is seen as a last-ditch effort to save the species, a small and shy porpoise that only lives in the Upper Gulf of California. The population of the vaquita has been in a steep decline in recent years as the animals have been caught in illicit nets used to catch another endangered species that is endemic to the region, the giant totoaba fish. The totoaba's swim bladders are in high demand in Asia, where some believe in their curative powers.

Despite Mexican government efforts to curb the illegal totoaba fisheries, the practice has continued, vaquita have continued to drown. The aim of VaquitaCPR has been to remove the animals from their habitat and keep them in protected enclosures for breeding in captivity to rebuild the population. The goal has been to release them back into the wild once the illegal fishing is brought under control.

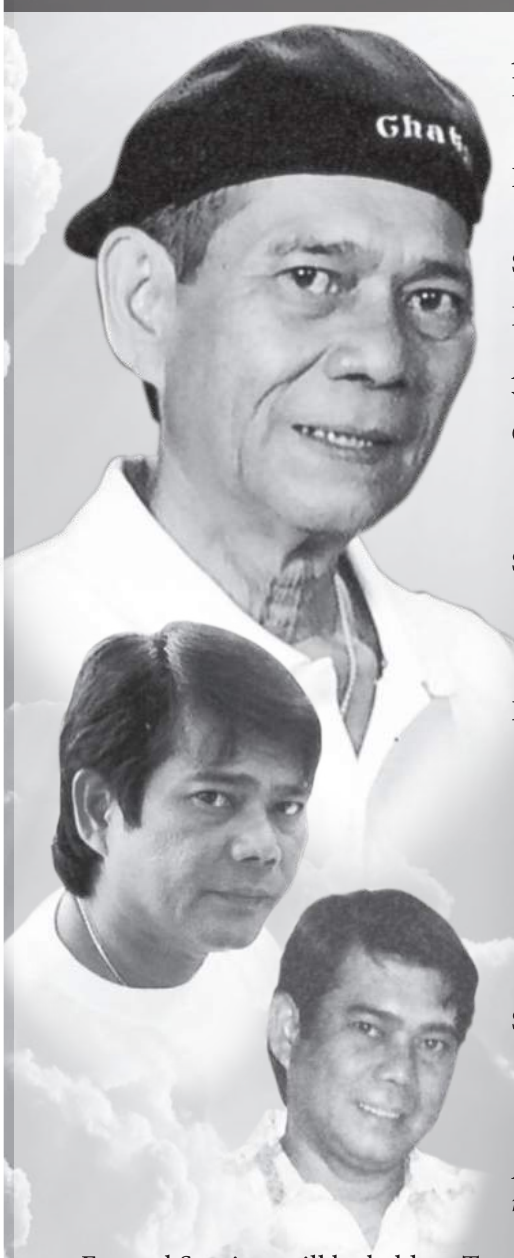
"The risk of losing a vaquita during field operations was always acknowledged as a possibility, but it was determined that it was unacceptable to stand by and watch the vaquita porpoise disappear without a heroic attempt at rescue," the VaquitaCPR statement read.

The events leading up to the vaquita's death are now under review by VaquitaCPR scientists "in collaboration with an independent review panel established for this purpose," the statement said. The Mexican government "will review the events of the past 24 hours and determine how to proceed," the statement said. "A necropsy has been performed and tissue samples have been collected to inform this review."

In Celebration of His New Life

†Henry Iglesias Sablan

Born to life: January 03, 1950 – Called to eternal life: November 05, 2017



In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: †Gregorio Torres Sablan
†Rosa Iglesias Sablan

Parents-in-Law: †Wilburn Chandler Hamilton
†Carmen Wesley Hamilton

Son: †Gregory Peter DLG Sablan

Brother-in Law: †Paul Chandler Hamilton

His memories will always live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Nadine Hamilton Sablan

Children: Rico Chandler Hamilton Sablan & Jade *(Rylan Chandler, Aiden, Ariana)*
Loanalynn Rose DLG. Sablan & Griffith E. Rechelulk *(Laealdrie Jesslynne)*

Step Children: Sharlene S. & William Sakisat *(Wesley, Robert, Mandy, Gregory Kachuma)*
Diana H. Sablan
Barbara H. Sablan

Brothers & Sisters with Family:
Matilde S. & Norbert P. Diaz & children
Jesus I. & Rosalia D. Sablan & children
Jose I & Ana V. Sablan & children
Edward I & Dorothy L. Sablan & children
Selina S. & Romeo M. DeLeon & children
Magdalena S. & Jose A. Mendiola & children
Bertha S. Salas & Darrel Brown & children
Jeffrey Lee & Melina B. Camacho & children

Sisters-In Law and Family:
Thelma M. Hamilton & Family
Betty Hamilton Johnson & Family
Ruby Hamilton Northen & Family

He will also be missed by his numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren, relatives and friends.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to Our lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of the remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

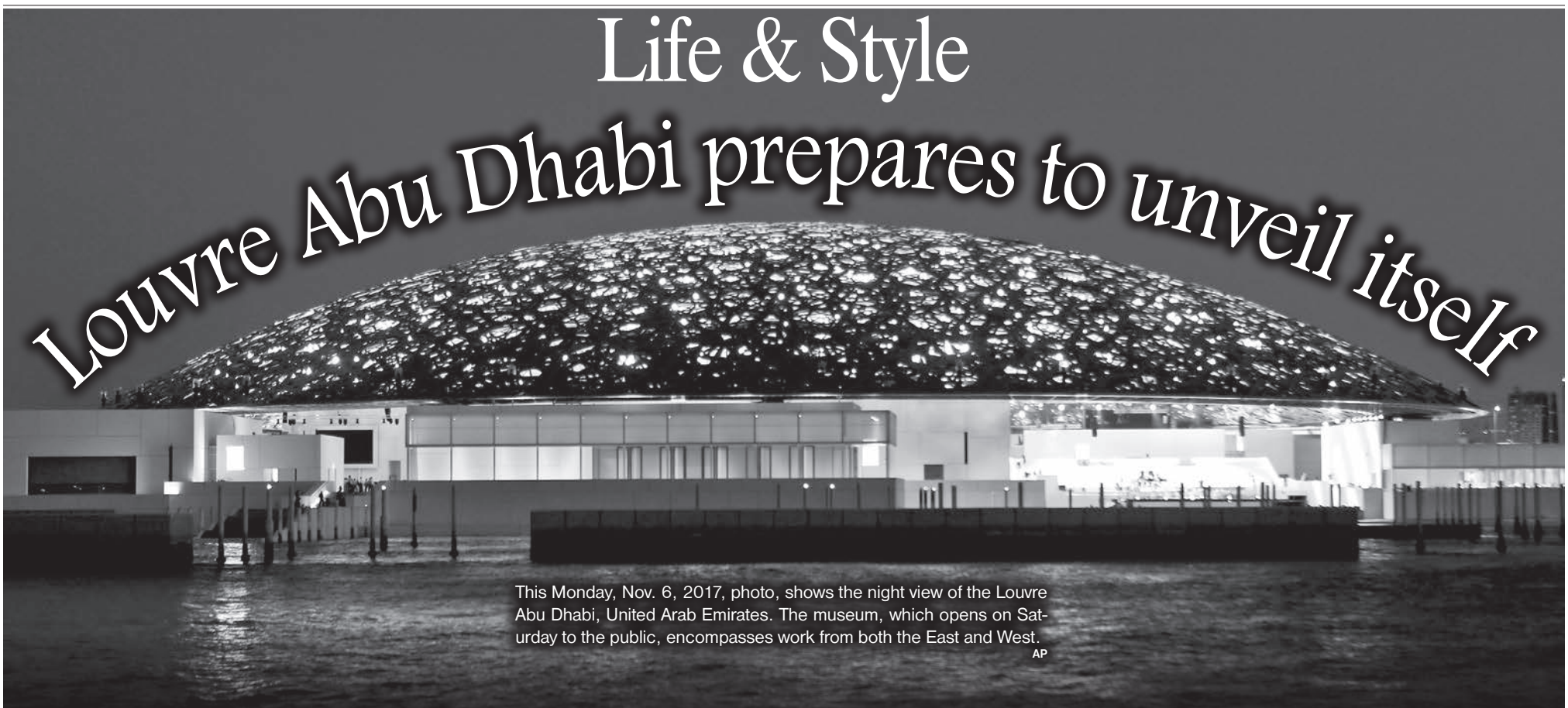
Please join us in prayers.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Nadine Hamilton Sablan, Children and Family

Life & Style

Louvre Abu Dhabi prepares to unveil itself



This Monday, Nov. 6, 2017, photo, shows the night view of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The museum, which opens on Saturday to the public, encompasses work from both the East and West. AP

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Stepping into the Louvre Abu Dhabi, one of the first artworks a visitor sees is a two-headed Neolithic statue from Jordan, one of the oldest known in human history.

That duality—looking back and toward the future, encompassing both East and West—is a theme that extends throughout the new museum, which is opening to the public on Saturday after a decade of delays and questions over laborers' rights.

The conservative mores of Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates that's more buttoned-up than freewheeling Dubai, can be seen in the relative absence of pieces depicting nudity. Still, artwork at the new Louvre offers a brief history of the world and its major religions, not shying away from Judaism in a country that officially does not recognize Israel.

"Here at the Louvre Abu Dhabi, we've accomplished history," Mohamed Khalifa al-Mubarak, the chairman of Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, said at a ceremony for journalists on Monday. "This museum is a lot more than just a museum."

The modernist museum, designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, sits under a honeycombed dome of eight layers of Arab-style geometric shapes.

It draws the lapping waters of the Persian Gulf into its outer corridors, allowing individual beams of light that pass through the roof to strike the surface and cast dancing reflections across the white walls. At night, light inside pours out like tiny little stars from a salt shaker against the city's skyline.

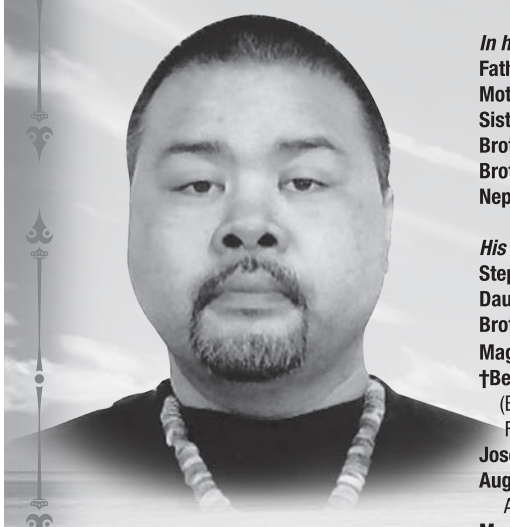
"I imagine this metaphor of the sky, cosmic, cosmographic, with a random system like the stars itself," Nouvel told The Associated Press. "I imagine that with not a lot of lighting, just a little bit to create a kind of rain of light."

That rain has been a long time coming in this desert country, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula. Authorities first announced the Louvre Abu Dhabi project in 2007 as Dubai feverishly built the world tallest building and other wonders.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Francisco Sablan Naputi

Lovingly Known as "PAKO"
September 19, 1978 – November 04, 2017



Daily Mass of intention for the repose of his soul is being celebrated at each morning at 6:00 am and Holy Rosary each evening at 7:00 pm at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, November 13, 2017. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30 am followed by Responso Service and Holy Rosary at 8:00 am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father:	†Jose Hocog Naputi
Mother:	†Matilde Sablan Naputi
Sister:	†Bernadita Sablan Naputi DelaCruz
Brother:	†Mariano Sablan Naputi
Brother in Law:	†Francisco S. Arriola
Nephew:	†Angel Jose Salas Naputi

His memories will always live in the hearts of his:

Step Mother:	Hinara Ada Naputi
Daughter:	Kaishia Ada Naputi

Brothers, Sisters and Family:

Magdalena Sablan Naputi / Ernie – Valerie Kay
†Bernadita Naputi DelaCruz / Steven – Matilde & Dullal (Berlena Ann & Monika); Steven Jr. & Shiara (Sandy & Francisco "Pako" Martin)
Joseph Sablan Naputi
Augustin Sablan Naputi / Melinda – Randy & Kimberly, Augustin Jr. & Rosalaine, Matilde, Atanacio
Maryann Naputi Yamada / Poland – Bo & Monissa (Kaden), Rosemary (Tuid Joselle), Jose Mista
Denita Sablan Naputi / Albert – Marjolyn & Rich (Denilynn, Gus & Riley) Blaren & Krystal (Sophie, Gordon, Bernard, Ignacio & Warren) Larry Joe, Joey
Martin Sablan Naputi / Erlinda – Marlyn & Isaiah (Avalyn Mae), Maelyn & Davie, Jose, Franklin
Jolene Ada Naputi
Jowel Ada Naputi / Mayumi – Takehide Jose (TJ) Peleni, Sara, Jathaniel
Jasen Ross Ada / Lori – Jeremiah Ross JR & Melony, Russel Jerome RJ, AJ
Jonathan Ada / Joyce – Jonalyn, JJ, Jace

He will also be missed by his numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives and friends.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
THE FAMILY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MARILOU BAPTISTA QUIATCHON

July 25, 1963 – October 30, 2017
Passed away in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A

In her new life, she now joins her loved ones:

Father:	†Fidel Baptista Sr.
Mother:	†Pilar Baptista
Father-in-law:	†Emilio Quiatchon Sr.
Mother-in-law:	†Consolacion Quiatchon

Her memory will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband:	Alex Quiatchon
Children:	Aaron Quiatchon
	Mary Ruth Quiatchon
Siblings:	Tess Conception Baptista
	Fidel Baptista Jr.

She will also be missed by numerous relatives and friends.

Marilou touched the lives of many while living in Saipan from 1986-2006.

A memorial service will be held on November 18, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
at New Hope International Christian Center
at 14626 Pioneer Blvd. Norwalk, CA 90650.

Disney ends LA Times ban after widespread backlash

NEW YORK (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. on Tuesday lifted its ban of Los Angeles Times reporters and critics from its press screenings after a widespread backlash prompted several media outlets to announce their own boycotts of Disney movies.

In a statement Tuesday, Disney said it was restoring access to the newspaper after "productive discussions with the newly installed leadership" at the Los Angeles Times. Disney had barred the Times from its screenings after the paper published a two-part investigative series on the company's business dealings in Anaheim, California, where Disneyland is.

The ban's withdraw Tuesday ended an unusual clash between Hollywood's arguably most powerful studio and the media outlets that regularly write about its movies.

"The Los Angeles Times has covered the Walt Disney Company since its founding, here in Los Angeles, in 1923," the newspaper said in a statement. "We look forward to reporting on Disney well into the future."

Disney's punitive measures against the Times led to many outlets refusing advance coverage of the studio's films, including The New York Times, the Boston Globe and The A.V. Club. Four prominent film critics groups announced Tuesday that they would bar Disney films from receiving awards consideration

The Los Angeles Film Critics Association, the New York Film Critics Circle, the Boston Society of Film Critics and the National Society of Film Critics all said that wouldn't consider Disney films for their year-end awards. The critics groups noted that it was "admittedly extraordinary" to "take any action that might penalize film artists for decisions beyond their control."

"But Disney brought forth this action when it chose to punish The Times' journalists rather than express its disagreement with a business story via ongoing public discussion," the statement continued. "Disney's response should gravely concern all who believe in the importance of a free press, artists included."

The New York Times said in a statement Tuesday that it wouldn't attend preview screenings of Disney films while the LA Times can't, saying Disney's move is a "dangerous precedent and not at all in the public interest."

Disney on Friday said that the Times series in September detailing what it characterized as a complicated and increasingly tense relationship between Anaheim and the company showed "a complete disregard for basic journalistic standards." It added that the Times published a "biased and inaccurate series, wholly driven by a political agenda."

Daniel Miller, the Times reporter who wrote the series, tweeted that "Disney never asked for a correction."

With the ban concluded, critics said they would return to business as usual. Disney's upcoming films are the Pixar release "Coco" and "Star Wars: The Last Jedi."

"See you guys at the Coco screening," wrote New York Times critic A.O. Scott.

"Hamilton" creator visits Puerto Rico, announces $2.5M fund

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—"Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda made sandwiches, took selfies and announced a partnership with a nonprofit group for a $2.5 million hurricane recovery fund during a trip Tuesday to Puerto Rico.

Miranda said seven local groups already have received grants from the New York-based Hispanic Federation, which helps Latino agencies. The organization said it will award at least 25 grants ranging from $50,000 to $100,000 for reconstruction projects. A portion of a grant can be used for emergency relief efforts including food, water or shelter, officials said.

Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico on Sept. 20 as a Category 4 storm, destroying homes and power lines and leaving tens of thousands of people without work. Nearly 40 of Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities are still without power and nearly 20 percent of the island remains without water.

"The road to recovery in Puerto Rico is not a simple one nor is it one that relies solely on aid from the American government on the mainland," Miranda said. "Together, we will cultivate, fund and execute practical and actionable solutions to kick-start and continue the island's road to recovery for years to come."

Miranda also is scheduled to meet with students on Wednesday at the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras.

Imagine Dragons among Vegas shooting benefit headliners

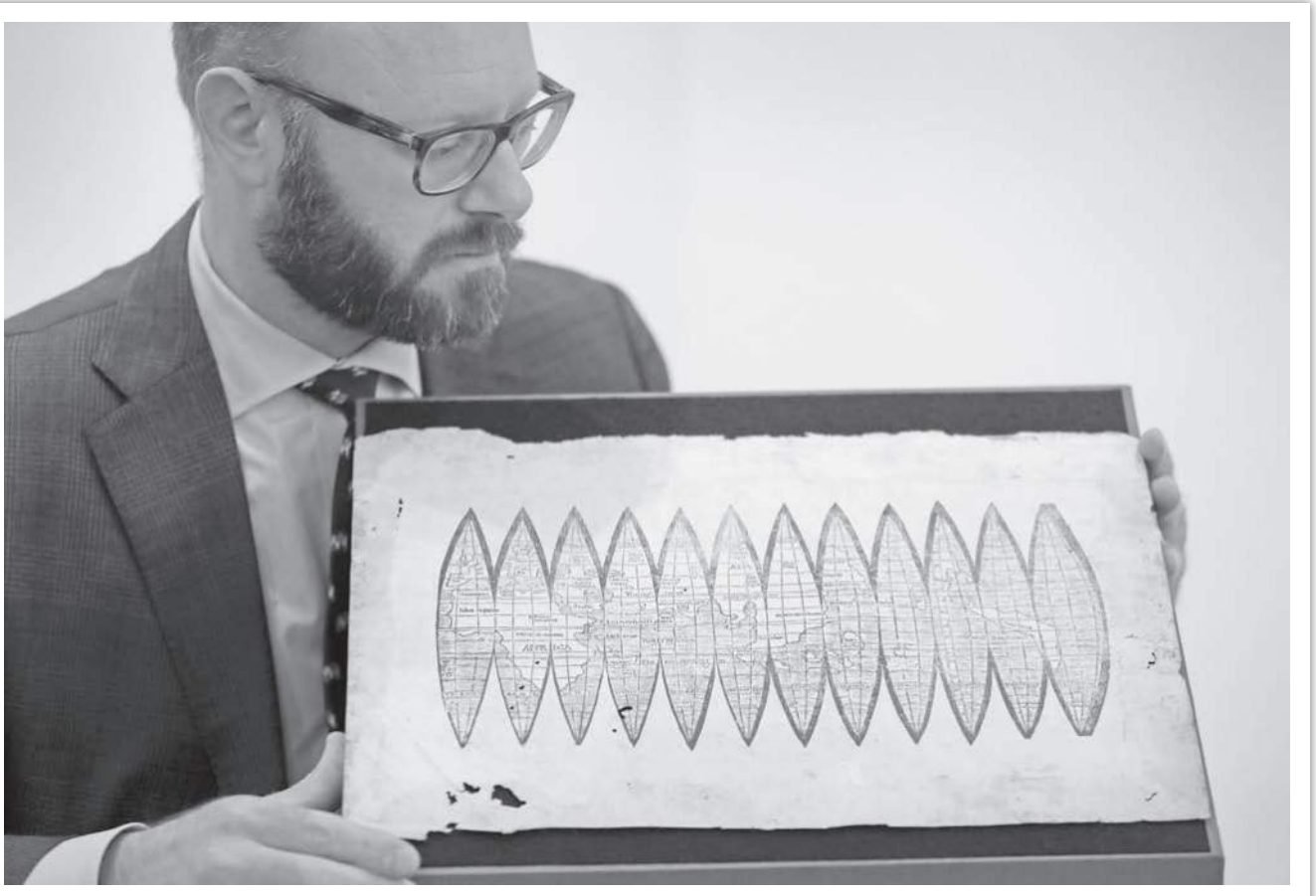
LAS VEGAS (AP)—The Killers and Imagine Dragons are headlining a benefit concert next month to help the victims of the shooting at an outdoor music festival in Las Vegas.

Organizers on Tuesday announced some of the performers of the Dec. 1 concert at T-Mobile Arena.

Also scheduled to participate are trio Boyz II Men, magician David Copperfield, magic duo Penn and Teller, and Cirque du Soleil performers.

Tickets go on sale Wednesday. Prices range from $75—$125. Proceeds will benefit the Las Vegas Victims Fund.

A 64-year-old man killed 58 people and injured hundreds more on Oct. 1 after he shattered windows of his hotel suite on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino and unleashed withering gunfire at the Route 91 Harvest music festival below before killing himself.



HISTORIC MAP AP

A world map in the form of a set of gores for a terrestrial globe, from 1507 by cartographer Martin Waldseemueller is displayed by Julian Wilson, Specialist from the Books and Manuscripts Department, at Christie's auction rooms in London, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017. The map is the first map to name America, and is expected to realize 600,000 -900,000 UK pounds (788,229-1,182,344 US dollars) when it is auctioned in London on Dec.13.

As boyfriend's hair disappears, so does woman's attraction

DEAR ABBY: My physical attraction to my boyfriend has significantly diminished due to his baldness. I know this may seem shallow, but I have lost all interest in intimate contact with him. When I look at his bald head or he rests his head on my shoulder, it literally makes my stomach lurch!

Our romance began 20 years ago when he still had hair. It fell out two years ago. I still have feelings for him, but I don't know how to get past this. I have tried turning out the lights and even imagining I'm with somebody else. I'm sure other women feel the same way I do. He tries to conceal his baldness by doing the "flip over" thing with his side hair, so I know he's self-conscious about it. But I am so turned off.

Can you give me some advice? I haven't said anything because I don't want to offend him. I am upset and discouraged and no longer look forward to seeing him because of this. It would be an awful reason to leave him, yet I can't stand looking at his head!

TURNED OFF IN CINCINNATI

DEAR TURNED OFF: Ask yourself whether you are turned off by your boyfriend's baldness, or whether it's his attempt to hide it with the unconvincing comb-over. If it's the latter, the solution might be for him to go the way of Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson or Vin Diesel and shave his head. However, if you truly can't handle the fact that his locks have flown, then do him—and yourself—a favor and turn him loose so he can find a lady who appreciates him for what's going on UNDER his scalp rather than over it.

Someone once said, "You can fool Mother Nature, but you can't fool Father Time." Aging, and the consequences it brings, happens to women as well as men. Keep that in mind as you consider jumping back into the dating pool.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 51-year-old married woman. I have a friend who is 68 and divorced. We have a great time together joking and laughing. However, lately I have noticed changes in her behavior that are alarming enough that I'm reconsidering our relationship.

An example: Today we went to a flea market and I watched her pick up and try on a ring. Then she pretended to return it, palmed the ring and slipped it into her pocket. I was shocked. I thought I was seeing things, but it happened a second time—this time with a heart pendant. Next she stole a bottle of hand lotion, which were three for $1.

I know she has money, but she's also cheap. I am appalled by her behavior and don't know what to do. Do I tell her I caught her, or let it go and not shop with her again? I don't want to be associated with a thief. Help!

NOT THE SAME IN THE EAST

DEAR NOT THE SAME: I, too, am concerned about what you saw, and no longer shopping with this friend is a good idea. Does she have children you can contact? Because these are "alarming changes" in the woman's personality, she may need a physical and neurological examination to make sure she's not seriously ill.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

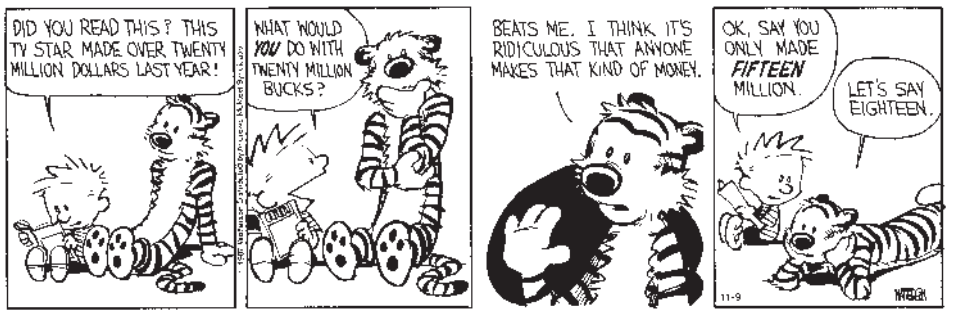
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

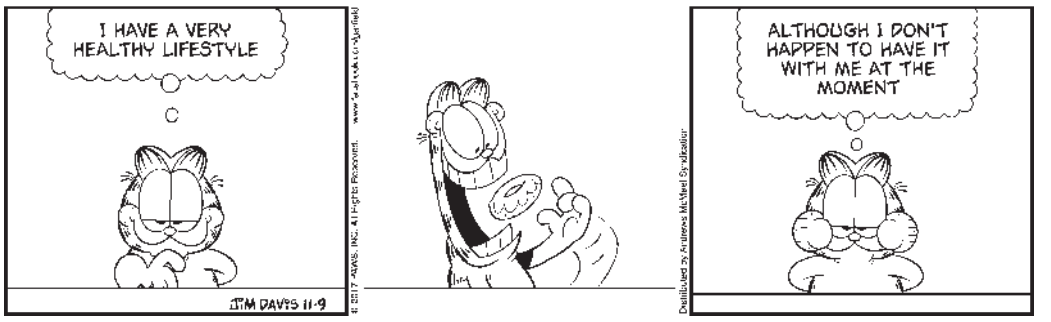
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DID YOU READ THIS? THIS TV STAR MADE OVER TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH TWENTY MILLION BUCKS?
BEATS ME. I THINK IT'S RIDICULOUS THAT ANYONE MAKES THAT KIND OF MONEY.
OK, SAY YOU ONLY MADE FIFTEEN MILLION.
LET'S SAY EIGHTEEN.
11-9

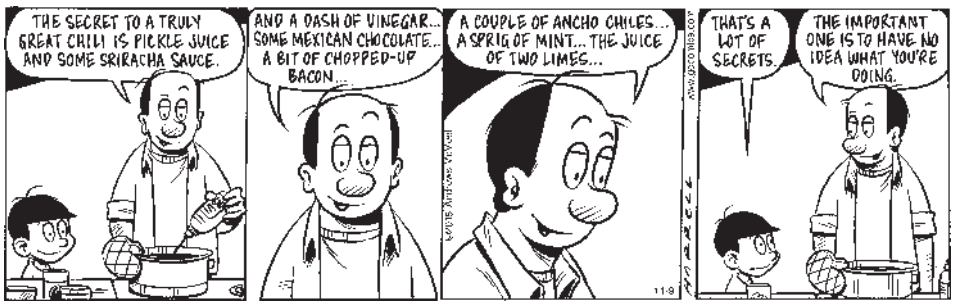
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THE SECRET TO A TRULY GREAT CHILI IS PICKLE JUICE AND SOME SRIRACHA SAUCE.
AND A DASH OF VINEGAR... SOME MEXICAN CHOCOLATE... A BIT OF CHOPPED-UP BACON...
A COUPLE OF ANCHO CHILES... A SPRIG OF MINT... THE JUICE OF TWO LIMES...
THAT'S A LOT OF SECRETS.
THE IMPORTANT ONE IS TO HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
11-9

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IN THE WORDS OF F.D.R....
"THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR IS FEAR ITSELF."
A NATIONWIDE BEER SHORTAGE WOULD BE NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT EITHER.

CROSSWORD

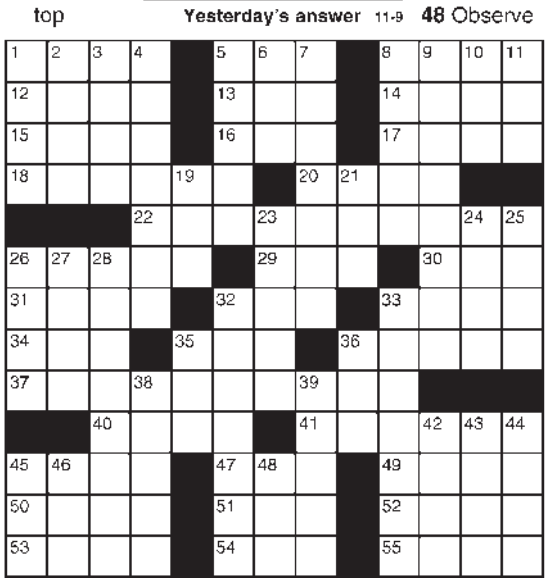
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Branch
5 Rainbow shape
8 Eager
12 Genesis shepherd
13 Life story
14 Presidential power
15 Stead
16 Candied veggie
17 Press agent?
18 Fall flowers
20 Use a rosary
22 "The Catcher in the Rye" author
26 "Star Wars" director
29 Table support
30 Tram load
31 "Hey, sailor!"
32 Half dozen
33 Stadium top
34 100 cts.
35 Light brown
36 Bicycle part
37 Author of "Lady Chatterley's Lover"
40 Apple tablet
41 — de corps
45 Calf-length
47 AOL, for one
49 Mediocre
50 Iowa city
51 PBS funder
52 Vogue rival
53 Snack
54 Sushi fish
55 Pub orders

DOWN
1 Chorus syllables
2 Nile wader
3 Bump into
4 Colorful crested bird
5 Void
6 Estuary
7 Intricate
8 Birdlike
9 "Impressive!"
10 Jurist Lance
11 Mafia boss
19 Hwys.
21 Predetermine
23 Skirt style
24 Wry Bombeck
25 Stagger
26 "Shane" star
27 "Oops!"
28 Crashes
32 Little fish
33 Type of diving
35 Delta's one-time rival
36 Mac alternatives
38 Like a gorilla
39 Himalayan land
42 Hot dog holder
43 Capri, e.g.
44 Low digits
45 Fellow
46 "If you ask me," in a text
48 Observe

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nick Lachey, 44; Eric Dane, 45; Susan Tedeschi, 47; Lou Ferrigno, 66.

Happy Birthday: Listen to others carefully. The conversations you have this year can make a difference to your personal life and your standard of living. Don't be tempted to be indulgent or make promises that you will have trouble living up to. Think carefully and do what's feasible to avoid damaging your reputation. Your numbers are 6, 17, 19, 26, 31, 42, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Participate in events that allow you to show off your skills and knowledge. You've got what it takes to be a leader, so push ahead. A money matter must be handled carefully. Gather facts before you put any money on the table. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Emotional outbursts, excessive behavior and overreacting will set you back personally and professionally if you aren't careful how you handle your peers. Moderation and discipline will help you avoid making a costly mistake. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Be careful how you present who you are and what you want. Someone will be eager to use emotional manipulation to make you look bad. Use your intelligence to counter any personal affront. Take better care of your health. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Concentrate on how to best handle your money, expenses and income stream. A chance to bring in more cash should be looked at seriously. Reconnect with people you have collaborated with in the past and new opportunities will surface. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Overreacting and indulgent behavior will not go over well at home or at work. Curb bad habits before they take over, and keep your distance from people who are a poor influence. Moderation will be your best approach. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* An emotional situation involving cash or a joint venture will leave you feeling uncertain. Don't make assumptions or act too quickly. Communication is the best way to figure out how to move forward confidently. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* It will be difficult to not be tempted by an offer or suggestion, that can change your current lifestyle and future. Gather all the facts and make sure you aren't overlooking something that could deter you from moving forward. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stick to a practical plan. If you take on too much or underestimate the cost or work involved, you will look bad and risk disappointing someone who is counting on you. Only offer what you can. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Avoid excessive spending just for the sake of self-gratification. You'll get far more in return if you are prudent about how you handle legal, financial and contractual matters devoid of any emotional interference. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Being a little secretive is in your best interest. Too much information shared with someone who tends to be emotional will leave you in a difficult position. Take the path that interests you even if you have to go it alone. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Use charm and intelligence to get your way. If you overreact, you will end up looking bad and jeopardizing your chance to win support. Indulgence will affect your health and cause problems with someone close to you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't feel like you have to pay for others. Offer suggestions, but don't do the work. Don't neglect your responsibilities or you will end up missing out on an opportunity that could turn into something promising. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, persistent and generous. You are sensitive and mysterious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					1		2	8
9				5		3		
		3	9				7	1
7					8		3	
	1		6					4
4	9				2	6		
		5		8				2
6	8		5					

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	1	2	4	9	3	7	8	6
9	8	3	7	6	2	1	4	5
6	4	7	8	5	1	2	3	9
8	5	4	3	2	9	6	1	7
2	9	6	1	7	8	4	5	3
3	7	1	5	4	6	8	9	2
4	2	5	9	8	7	3	6	1
1	6	8	2	3	5	9	7	4
7	3	9	6	1	4	5	2	8

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IT'S CRUMPLE TIME Solution: 8 letters

R	R	P	J	E	A	N	S	K	C	O	S	G	A	B
U	E	A	C	L	O	T	H	E	S	E	X	O	B	S
M	C	P	T	Y	E	L	L	I	B	W	P	D	R	Q
P	E	E	A	C	I	A	L	N	H	S	A	N	S	U
L	I	R	L	P	A	K	F	B	P	A	N	A	C	E
E	P	S	F	E	L	P	A	A	P	L	T	H	L	E
E	T	S	A	W	A	L	M	L	K	I	S	A	C	Z
H	E	H	B	R	L	T	A	O	N	N	T	A	O	E
S	X	E	R	T	T	S	H	W	C	E	F	E	R	G
A	T	E	I	R	T	W	L	E	M	N	S	M	D	A
U	U	T	C	I	E	T	O	N	R	O	T	I	U	R
Q	R	S	C	H	C	N	U	R	C	S	N	N	R	B
S	E	O	H	S	A	R	T	S	K	E	E	E	O	A
P	R	E	S	S	C	R	I	M	P	D	B	D	Y	G
R	E	T	T	E	L	V	E	L	V	E	T	A	P	E

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Artwork, Bags, Ball, Bent, Bill, Boxes, Can, Clothes, Compact, Corduroy, Crimp, Denim, Fabric, Face, Garbage, Hand, Hat, Jeans, Leaf, Leather, Letter, Linen, Maps, Metal, Note, Pants, Papers, Plastic, Press, Rayon, Receipt, Rose, Rumple, Satin, Scrunch, Sheets, Shirt, Silk, Socks, Squash, Squeeze, Tape, Texture, Trash, Velvet, Viscose, Wallpaper, Waste

Yesterday's Answer: Longevity

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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

Domingo E. Dones
PO Box 503135 Saipan MP 96950
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DOMINGO E. DONES	)	FCD-DI-CIVIL
Petitioner	)	ACTION NO.
vs.	)	17-0405
VIOLETA B. SALES	)	
Respondent	)	**SUMMONS**
	)	

TO: VIOLETA B. SALES
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Domingo E. Dones whose mailing address is PO Box 503135 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2017.
/s/
Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2018-CDA-01-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Architectural/Engineering Services"

THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR, CDA BUILDING., OLEAI, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

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CNMI U14 team head to Beijing for AFC fes
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
With the CNMI U16 Girls National Team almost done in its campaign in the AFC U16 Women's Championships 2017 Qualifier, it's now the CNMI U14B Boy
Rota Finance resident
By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Hocog used Rota Municipal Treasurer checks to purchase cases of beer for her own benefit and to play poker
Lt. Gov. Hocog's son's signature allegedly forged in business license
Judge Kim-Tenori
FOR ALLEGEDLY EMBEZ
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 20
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Former star pitcher Halladay killed in plane crash

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Roy Halladay had a passion for flying airplanes that nearly matched his love of baseball.

Halladay worked tirelessly to become a dominant pitcher, winning a Cy Young Award in each league and tossing a perfect game and a postseason no-hitter in the same year for the Philadelphia Phillies. When he couldn't pitch at a high level anymore, Halladay walked away from the game and immersed himself in another craft.

The son of a corporate pilot, Halladay quickly got his license to fly—despite his wife's misgivings. The eight-time All-Star fulfilled his dream when he purchased his own plane last month.

Halladay died Tuesday when that private plane crashed into the Gulf of Mexico. He was 40.

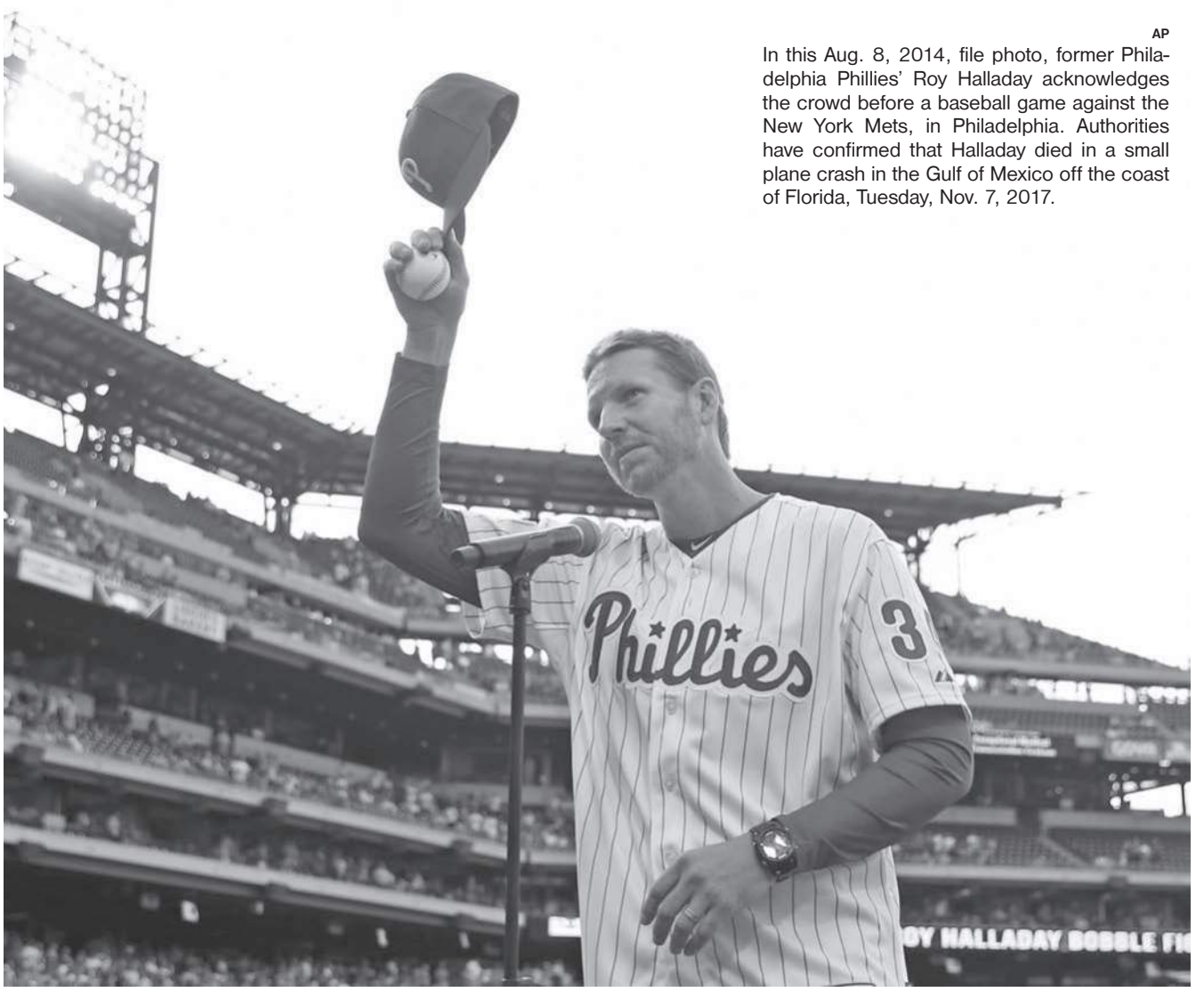
"All-Star pitcher. All-Star person. All-Star father and family man," Phillies chairman David Montgomery said at a news conference.

Former teammate and current Texas Rangers ace Cole Hamels joined Montgomery at Philadelphia's ballpark to remember Halladay.

"Knowing his father was a pilot, you look up to your dad always," Hamels said. "He had that bug that he wanted to fly. That was his passion. You have to respect that. He prepared for everything. He took this serious."

Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco said during a news conference in Holiday, Florida, that Halladay's ICON A5 went down around noon off the coast. The sheriff's office marine unit responded and discovered Halladay's body in shallow water near some mangroves. No survivors were found.

Police said they couldn't confirm if there were additional passengers on the plane or say where it was headed. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.



AP

In this Aug. 8, 2014, file photo, former Philadelphia Phillies' Roy Halladay acknowledges the crowd before a baseball game against the New York Mets, in Philadelphia. Authorities have confirmed that Halladay died in a small plane crash in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Florida, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017.

Halladay, who retired after the 2013 season, often posted on social media about small planes .

"I have dreamed about owning a A5 since I retired! Real life is better then my dreams!!" Halladay tweeted on Oct. 13.

ICON aircraft had posted a video with Halladay trying out a new plane. The video showed Halladay taking delivery of a new ICON A5, a two-seat "light-sport aircraft" that can land on water.

In the video, Halladay said the terms of his baseball contract prevented him from having a pilot's license while playing, and that his wife was originally against the idea of him getting the aircraft.

"She's fought me the whole way," Halladay said.

"Hard. I fought hard. I was very against it," Brandy Halladay said in the same video, before explaining why she eventually understood and approved of her husband's desire to have the plane. The couple has two sons, Ryan and Braden.

Halladay spent 12 seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays followed by four seasons with the Phillies. He was 203-105 with a 3.38 ERA.

"Words cannot describe what it feels like to lose a friend like Roy," said former teammate Chase Utley, who was Halladay's favorite player. "He was the ultimate teammate with a passion for being the best. I'm honored to have had the chance to compete with you, Roy. My heart goes out to Brandy and his boys. RIP Doc, but knowing you, rest is not in your vocabulary."

Other baseball players to die in plane crashes include Pittsburgh Pirates star Roberto Clemente in a relief mission from Puerto Rico traveling to earthquake victims in Nicaragua on New Year's Eve in 1972; New York Yankees catcher Thurman Munson piloting his own plane near his home in Canton, Ohio, in 1979; and Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle piloting a private plane in New York City in 2006.

Halladay was nominated several times for the Roberto Clemente Award, given by Major League Baseball to players for sportsmanship and community involvement. The Halladay Family Foundation has aided children's charities, hunger relief and animal rescue.

Rockies' Arenado wins 5th straight Gold Glove

NEW YORK (AP)—Colorado Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado won his fifth consecutive Gold Glove Award on Tuesday night, while Minnesota Twins center fielder Byron Buxton headlined a group of six first-time winners.

The prizes for defensive excellence were announced by Rawlings for the 60th time.

Arenado, Cubs right fielder Jason Heyward and Royals left fielder Alex Gordon were each honored for the fifth time, most among this year's winners.

Rockies second baseman DJ LeMahieu got his second Gold Glove, joining Arenado in a banner year for the NL West. Diamondbacks pitcher Zack Greinke won for the fourth time in a row, and teammate Paul Goldschmidt took his third award at first base. Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford won for the third consecutive year at shortstop.

The World Series-winning Astros and NL champion Dodgers were both shut out. Houston pitcher Dallas Keuchel had won the last three years, but was beaten out this time by Blue Jays righty Marcus Stroman, who snagged his first Gold Glove.

"This is one of the main awards I always wanted to win," Stroman said in an interview on ESPN. "I'm ecstatic. This is huge for me."

Buxton and Twins second baseman Brian Dozier were also among the first-time winners. The group also includes Angels catcher Martin Maldonado, who ended a four-year reign by Royals backstop Salvador Perez. Reds catcher Tucker Barnhart and Marlins left fielder Marcell Ozuna also won for the first time.

"This is a special moment," Buxton said.

Kansas City first baseman Eric Hosmer received his fourth Gold Glove, while Angels shortstop Andrelton Simmons and Rays third baseman Evan Longoria each won their third. Simmons hadn't won since 2014, and Longoria got his first since 2010.

Boston right fielder Mookie Betts and Braves center fielder Ender Inciarte each won for the second time.

Packers' struggles without Rodgers go beyond offense

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Green Bay Packers Mike McCarthy still believes in backup quarterback Brett Hundley, but he wants to see everyone on his roster—including Hundley—elevate their games.

"We all need to do better," McCarthy said Tuesday night, less than 24 hours after his team's 30-17 loss to the Detroit Lions. "We had an injury to Aaron Rodgers, and nobody has stepped up."

Rodgers was knocked out Oct. 15 with a broken right collarbone. He underwent surgery four days later and was placed on injured reserve, with the hope of the bone healing quickly enough for him to return this season.

Since the injury, the Packers' offense hasn't been the same with Hundley under center, the defense hasn't generated enough stops or turnovers, the special teams haven't created a single momentum-shifting play and the Packers (4-4) have lost three games—to the Vikings, the New Orleans Saints and the Lions

"No group has stepped up yet," McCarthy said. "We've had two games that have been very similar in nature—New Orleans and Detroit. ... We need to get more production out of this new path. And it hasn't happened yet."

Although McCarthy insisted after Monday night's loss that Hundley was not to blame, the third-year quarterback has not played well. Against the Lions, his numbers -- 26 of 38 for 245 yards with no interceptions for a passer rating of 86.0—looked better because of a late touchdown drive after the Lions had the game in hand.

An offense that was one of the league's best on third-down conversions and red-zone production with Rodgers at the helm has managed just 44 points in the past three games. Before Rodgers' injury, the Packers were averaging 27.4 points per game.

Hundley acknowledged after the game that the improvement he showed against the Lions was insufficient.

"Everybody wants to score five touchdowns and have a perfect quarterback rating and win," Hundley said. "This game was a step in the right direction. I think I did some good things. Obviously, it wasn't enough. But the first start (against the Saints) for sure wasn't."

Green Bay's defense hasn't put together a strong performance since a 35-14 victory over the Chicago Bears on Sept. 28. The teams meet again Sunday in Chicago, and the Packers enter that game ranked 22nd in scoring defense, 25th in yards allowed per game, 20th in pass defense and 23rd in run defense.

Only one NFL team has fewer sacks than the Packers' 13 through eight games, and defensive leaders Mike Daniels, Nick Perry, Clay Matthews and Ha Ha Clinton-Dix haven't been the difference-makers they need to be.

"We've got to do a better job of applying the plan, make sure that we're executing it," McCarthy said. "We've got to play to who we are. We're halfway through the season. So we're not going to change our pass-rush techniques and so forth. If anything, less volume, more creativity."

Meanwhile, McCarthy announced Tuesday night that the knee injury suffered by veteran right tackle Bryan Bulaga is season-ending—the third time in the past six years he's had a season-ending injury. Bulaga hurt his ankle in August and missed the first two weeks of the regular season. He re-injured the ankle in Week 3 and missed more time, and he also suffered a concussion at Minnesota on Oct. 15.

Aldridge leads Spurs' barrage against Clippers

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—LaMarcus Aldridge scored 25 points, and the San Antonio Spurs made a season-high 15 3-pointers to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 120-107 on Tuesday night.

San Antonio set several season-highs in capturing its third straight win.

The Spurs had a season-best 12 steals, and Danny Green, Rudy Gay and Pau Gasol all had or matched their best scoring output of the season. Green scored 24 points, Gay had 22 and Gasol added 19. The trio combined to make 11 of 15 3-pointers.

San Antonio finished 15-for-28 from beyond the arc.

The Spurs were dominant in the third quarter for the second straight game. After routing Phoenix by 21 points in the third quarter Sunday, San Antonio outscored the Clippers by 19 (40-21).

The Spurs made six 3s in the quarter, with Gay and Green both hitting two. Green and Aldridge each had eight points in the third.

Aldridge, Gasol and Green all made a 3-pointer in the first five minutes as the team shot 6-for-9 on 3s to open the game.

The Clippers shot 51 percent from the field in the first half, but committed 18 turnovers.

Austin Rivers led Los Angeles with 24 points. Blake Griffin added 15 points on 4-for-13 shooting.

The Clippers played without starting small forward Danilo Gallinari for the first time this season, while the Spurs continued without Kawhi Leonard and Tony Parker.

AP

San Antonio Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge (12) drives past Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, in San Antonio. The Spurs won, 120-107.

Cavaliers 124, Bucks 119

In Cleveland, Kevin Love scored a season-high 32 points, LeBron James added 30 and the Cavaliers withstood a 40-point performance by Giannis Antetokounmpo to beat the Milwaukee Bucks.

The Cavs have been one of the NBA's biggest surprises this season—for all the wrong reasons. But after losing five of six, they did enough to hand the Bucks their fourth straight loss and keep Cleveland fans from panicking.

Love, who was briefly hospitalized after scoring just four points in a surprising loss to Atlanta on Sunday, also had 16 rebounds. J.R. Smith added a season-high 20 points for the Cavs.

Knicks 118, Hornets 113

In New York, Kristaps Porzingis scored 28 points, including a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 1:48 remaining, and the Knicks earned their third straight victory.

The Eastern Conference player of the week was held below 30 for only the third time in 10 games this season, but he delivered when it mattered, scoring seven points in the final 2:32.

Doug McDermott added a season-high 20 points off the bench and Tim Hardaway Jr. had 19 for the Knicks, who have won six of seven after a 0-3 start.

Pelicans 117, Pacers 112

In Indianapolis, Anthony Davis had 37 points and 14 rebounds for New Orleans, and DeMarcus Cousins added 32 points and 13 boards.

Davis was 14 for 18 from the field in New Orleans' third straight win. Darius Miller scored 12 points, and Jameer Nelson had 10.

Indiana had six players score in double figures in its third straight loss.

Mavericks 113, Wizards 99

In Washington, Harrison Barnes scored 31 points, rookie Dennis Smith Jr. had 22 and the Mavericks snapped a six-game losing streak.

Wesley Matthews made four 3-pointers and finished with 14 points for Dallas, which has won 14 of its last 15 meetings with Washington. It was just the second win on the season for the Mavericks.

John Wall had 23 points and 14 assists in his return from a sprained left shoulder, but the Wizards lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Raptors 119, Bulls 114

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Toronto beat Chicago for its first three-game winning streak over the Bulls since 2009.

Kyle Lowry scored 17 points for the Raptors, who had lost 11 straight meetings with the Bulls before the current streak began with an overtime victory on March 21. Toronto beat Chicago 117-100 on Oct. 19 in the opening game of the season for both teams.

Chicago's Bobby Portis had 21 points and 13 rebounds in his first game of the season.

Nuggets 112, Nets 104

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had a career-high 41 points for Denver, and Will Barton and Paul Millsap scored 17 apiece.

Jokic also had 12 rebounds, two steals and two blocks. The Nets starters couldn't match Jokic's output; they combined for 40 points.

Tyler Zeller led Brooklyn with a season-high 21 points. Only three Nets were in double figures.

76ers 104, Jazz 97

In Salt Lake City, Dario Saric scored a season-high 25 points and Philadelphia won its fifth straight game.

The winning streak is the longest for the 76ers since the 2011-12 season.

Philadelphia used a 21-7 run to start the third quarter, highlighted by eight straight points from J.J. Redick, to take a 67-51 lead it never relinquished.

The Sixers seemed to have more energy on both ends of the floor despite being on the road without starting center Joel Embiid, who was rested.

Kings 94, Thunder 86

In Sacramento, Zach Randolph scored 18 of his points in the second half, Buddy Hield had 21 points and the Kings rallied to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 94-86 on Tuesday night.

Sacramento stopped a seven-game losing streak with its first win since Oct. 20. The Kings (2-8) were limited to 10 points in the first quarter, but stormed back to take the lead going into halftime and never trailed in the second half.

Russell Westbrook had 20 points, 12 rebounds and six assists for Oklahoma City, which has dropped three in a row

FIFA to reveal all 2026 World Cup votes, aims for clean bids

ZURICH (AP)—FIFA has pledged to publish all votes by soccer officials in the 2026 World Cup bidding race after corruption claims tainted the 2018 and 2022 contests.

Publishing documents Tuesday to guide the process, FIFA explained how bidders must detail a strategy to respect human rights and labor standards in all construction projects linked to the expanded 48-team tournament.

The North American bid by the United States, Canada and Mexico is strongly favored to be picked on June 13 in Moscow. The other bidder is Morocco.

The 2026 contest is currently barred to European and Asian countries because Russia and Qatar will host the next two tournaments. Both won despite being the highest risk options.

FIFA's documents outline exactly how to evaluate the 2026 bids.

Meanwhile, Spain's jersey for the World Cup has sparked controversy after being linked to the Republican flag of the 1930s.

The jersey has the colors red, yellow and blue. Some say that from afar the blue appears to have the same purple tone of the Republican flag used from 1931-39.

The flag is still used by those who oppose the Spanish monarch.

Apparel maker Adidas said there were no political implications in the jersey, and the design was agreed upon with the Spanish Football Federation a long time ago.

"The current design represents the courage and the fury of our national team, with graphics of red, yellow and blue diamonds which represent the best qualities of this team: Speed, energy and its renowned style of play," the company said in a statement on Tuesday.

Federation officials also said that there was no intended link to the Republican flag.

The jersey is a throwback to the one used by Spain at the 1994 World Cup, with a side pattern mixing the three colors. Its main color remains red. The shorts will be blue and the socks black.

Spain is in the midst of a political crisis after Catalonia pushed for independence from the rest of the country.

Mickelson geared toward winning a Ryder Cup in Europe

NEW YORK (AP)—Phil Mickelson has more than just an elusive U.S. Open title on his mind for 2018. He wants desperately to be on another Ryder Cup team, and he's willing to add tournaments to his schedule if that's what it takes.

Mickelson already holds the U.S. record by qualifying for 11 consecutive teams, and he has made 23 straight appearances in the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup combined. But this isn't about a streak. It's about having a chance—perhaps his last chance—to win a Ryder Cup in Europe.

"That's a big goal of mine, and if I play like I've been playing, I'll make the team," Mickelson said at the HSBC Champions in Shanghai.

Whether he speaks from confidence or hope remains to be seen.

Mickelson hasn't won since the 2013 British Open, and the last PGA Tour season was his first without recording a top-3 finish. He plans to start next year at the CareerBuilder Challenge in Southern California and play the entire West Coast from there, followed by the World Golf Championship in Mexico City.

"I'll play more tournaments if I have to," he said. "I'm not sure if I have to add much. Paris is a big goal of mine, and it's important to get off to a good start."

Mickelson has been on five losing teams held on European soil. There were two close calls. One was in 2002 at The Belfry, when the matches were tied at 8 going into Sunday singles. Europe won the last session, including Phillip Price defeating Mickelson. The other was in Wales, when Graeme McDowell won the final match for a one-point victory.

Mickelson, who turns 48 in June, doesn't see Paris next September as his last chance to win in Europe. Told that he would be 52 the next time the matches go to Europe, Mickelson said, "I'm not looking that far ahead."

"I'm expecting to have a good year," he said. "I'd like to get on the team and go over there and win."

Cubs win pitching duel in U25

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The GSM Cubs won a pitching duel against the Tanapag Falcons to squeeze out a 4-3 win in the Under-25 division of the Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The Cubs' pair of Joe Palacios and Keoni Kaipat shared the pitching duties against the Falcons with the former lasting four innings as a starter and the latter closing out the game. Palacios gave up one earned run on three hits with one walk and two strikeouts, while Kaipat surrendered two runs on one hit, fanned out two, and also walked two.

Juan Palacios started for the Falcons and allowed four runs (three earned) on seven hits with two walks, while A.J. Evangelista pitched three scoreless innings of one-hit game.

The Cubs batted only 0.258 (8-for-31) with Nokki Saralu going 0-for-4, while Peyton Lizama went 0-for-3. Fortunately, Angel Palacios and Verlance Secharmidal stepped up for the Cubs, combining for 4-for-7.

Palacios had an RBI single in the second and scored on Kiku Lizama's RBI triple moments later. Secharmidal, meanwhile, had a double and stole home.

The Falcons had a worse batting record, combining for 4-for-23 (0.174) with Ian Norita and Barry Sunumai each going 0-for-3 and Evangelista and Bradley Lieto hitting 0-for-2.

Jay Kalen, Frankie Lifoifoi, and Frankie Lieto scored for the Falcons with the former having a single, stealing second, and advancing to third on a wild pitch before touching home plate on an Ace Palacios RBI single.

Lifoifoi was hit by a pitch and reached home plate on a throwing error, while Lieto had a bunt single, advanced to second and third on errors, and scored the Falcons' last run.

MASTERS
Saisei 32, Papa Bears 19

Hector Efraim homered, scored four times, and had five RBIs in leading last year's finalist Saisei to the blowout win over the Papa Bears last week.

Saisei went 25-for-51 (0.490) with Efraim and Lefty Shiro going 4-for-6 each. Taylor Germance hit 4-for-7, while Otis Olkeriil ended up with 3-for-5. Shiro also had four runs and two RBIs, while Germance scored three times and had five RBIs behind two doubles. Olkeriil finished with three runs, a triple, and four RBIs.

Glen Camacho led Papa Bears' losing cause after going 4-for-5, including a bases-clearing triple in the fourth where they scored seven runs in an attempt to make a comeback. He also had two runs, five RBIs, and two triples.

Vendetta, Spigen ease past foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vendetta finally broke into the win column, while Spigen boosted its playoffs chances in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League.

After a 0-6 start, Vendetta got its first victory in the competition following an 87-74 triumph over the skidding Gold Ballers (2-6) in the second game of the triple-header at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium last Sunday. In the last match, Spigen also earned a double-digit win over the Green Minded, 84-74.

Lerio Pagarao held his own against Green Minded's Ivan Devero, scoring 25 points and drawing enough support from his teammates to lift Spigen to victory No. 5 in nine games. Mike Umali added 16 points for Spigen, which drew 12 apiece from Gani Cortez and Bruce Berline and 14 more from Ferdie Tobias and Dick Tibayan.

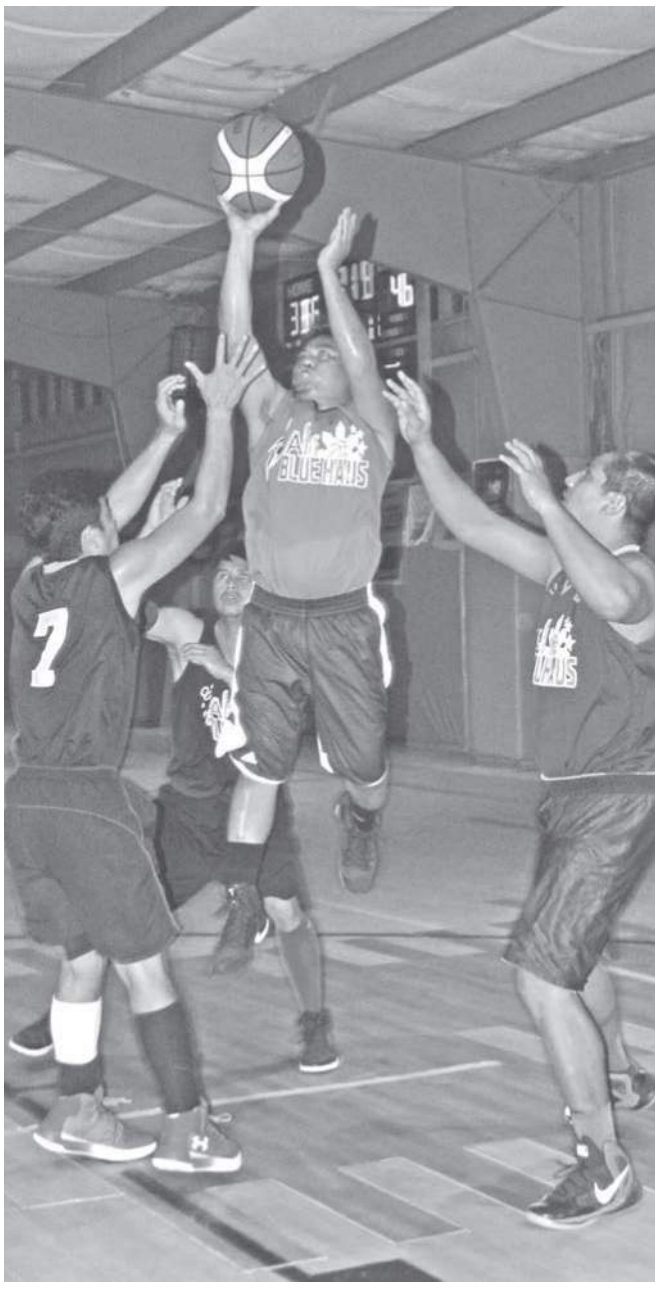
While Spigen spread the wealth, Green Minded was left with no choice but to lean heavily on Devero, as only six players showed up for the game last weekend. Devero finished with a game-high 27 points and had only J.R. Barrios helping him out, as the latter contributed 21 markers.

Devero was the only Green Minded player to earn more than a field goal in the fourth quarter, making it hard for his squad to overhaul Spigen's double-digit lead. In contrast, Berline, Tibayan, Pagarao, and Cortez scored at least 4 points each for Spigen in the final canto.

With the win, Spigen retains its spot (No. 6) at the top half of the team standings. Only the Top 8 after the round-robin elimination will advance to the playoffs and Spigen must win one of its two remaining games to avoid complications going into the next round. Spigen shares the No. 6 spot with Green Minded, while Team Sawi is not far behind with its 4-4 mark, and Empe Light (3-6) is still in contention

Meanwhile, in the second game, Vendetta got off to a strong start and never looked back to snap its skid. Ed Pangelinan dropped 10 of his 16 points in the first quarter to give Vendetta a 28-12 advantage. James Dela Cruz and Gino Libuw then took over in the second period to keep the wide margin en route to their 13-point victory.

Despite ending its slide, it's a little bit late for Vendetta as the team remained at the bottom half of the team standings (No.11).



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Spigen's Dick Tibayan pulls up for a jumper against three Silencer defenders during an earlier game in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Second Game

Vendetta 87— Libuw 26, Dela Cruz 19, Castro 19, Ed Pangelinan 16, Sablan 5, Tenorio 2,

Gold Ballers 74— Factor 20, Usi 17, Cortez 16, Velasco 11, Mateo 5, Manabat 2, Alano 2, Leomo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 28-12, 44-28, 72-57, 87-74.

Third Game

Spigen 84 — Pagarao 25, Umali 16, Cortez 12, Berline 12, Tobias 8, Tibayan 6, Aniciete 4, Marilla 3.

Green Minded 74 —Devero 27, Barrios 21, Omampo 11, Tibayan 11, Vergara 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-11, 38-28, 59-49, 84-74.

MENDIOLA

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looks forward to joining more tournaments in Hawaii, including next year's Stingrey Classic, and a few more in the mainland before turning pro.

"I plan to compete in the states, somewhere in Las Vegas or in Washington State. Then I plan to turn pro when I turn 26 or before 28 years old. I know it is not an impossible thing to do. With the right mindset, great work ethic, and the Lord in my life, anything is possible," he added.

"Bigger and better things are yet to come. I plan to represent my islands well. I want to show everybody that no matter where you are from, anything is possible with hard work and dedication," the bodybuilder said.

Mendiola said he dedicated his win in Hawaii to his family, who are all out in supporting him in his journey. "[My family] knows what I went through every day, as the months went by, and as it turned into years. I just appreciate their support as I hit my goals and the dreams that I have. I would also like to thank God for blessing me with this win, for guiding me through the rough times and giving me the strength. And my girlfriend (Jarene) for the love and support in what I do."

He also thanked Clayton for being a great friend and supporter, Cutting, for helping with his training, and MAGAS owner Frank Cabrera for his gear.

"I wouldn't be able to join these competitions without Dee's (Clayton) help. She gave me the chance to compete and put my physique to the test against the best bodybuilders in Hawaii," said Mendiola.

"Thank you also to Derek for the support and for being a great coach, mentor, and brother to me. Thank you for helping me with my daily training and workout, and always keeping my meal plans on point."

Mendiola competed in the men's bodybuilding (not physique as earlier reported) novice division and went home with the bronze behind gold medalist James Tani and silver medal winner Changdae Kim.

MBC

From Page 28

will have its last practice on Saipan this Saturday, from 9am to 12pm, and will leave at 8:40am on Sunday. Rogolifoi has scheduled a practice this Sunday afternoon after they arrive in Guam.

Rogolifoi said he has high hopes for his young team that's tasked to defend the MBC crown. The CNMI ruled the inaugural event by scoring a 15-14 come-from-behind win over Guam in the one-game finals.

"This is a young team, but our players are no stranger to international competitions. Most of them are graduates of the Little League program and have represented the CNMI in the Asia-Pacific (regional tournaments) and the (Little League) World Series," the CNMI National Team manager said.

"We just want to expose them in another level of competition and majority of them have not yet played either in the Micronesian Games or the Pacific Games," added Rogolifoi, who steered the CNMI to gold medal wins in the 2006 Saipan Micronesian Games and the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia. He also helped the Commonwealth to silver medal finishes for two straight editions of the Micro Games—2010 in Palau and 2014 in Pohnpei.

"This is a new, but strong team. There's no guarantee that we're going to bring home the gold but we will try. Kosrae is improving, while Palau and Guam have always been known as strong contenders," said Rogolifoi.

Meanwhile, with the CNMI National Team competing in the MBC next week, Rogolifoi said there won't be any games in the Masters and Under-25 divisions in the Saipan Baseball League from Nov. 13 to 20. Games will resume on Nov. 22.

MPU

From Page 28

TanHoldings 3, Shirley's 3

Last season's fall champion TanHoldings settled for a draw against Shirley's in the second game last week.

Taka Borja recorded all three goals for the dethroned champion, with his conversion in the 59th minute saving TanHoldings from a loss. Borja's two other goals came in the eighth and 42nd minute and his last helped TanHoldings (4-3-2) keep the No. 3 spot in the team standings.

Rakib Hassan, Ryan Kay Pangelinan, and Brandon Tenorio scored for Shirley's, which is at fourth place in the division rankings with its 4-2-3 mark. Hassan posted his goal in the 11th minute, while Pangelinan and Tenorio had theirs in the 19th and 58th, respectively.

After the draw against Shirley's, TanHoldings faced the visiting Tinian Premier FC in a friendly game. Devon Cabrera, Oliver Fajardo, Kohtar Goto and Reginal Pascual made one goal apiece to lift TanHoldings to a 5-1 win. J.C. Guitu registered the lone goal for Tinian Premier.

Kanoa 1, Matansa 0

Kanoa stunned the second-running Matansa in the curtain-raiser last weekend.

Brian Lubao delivered the goal for Kanoa in the 33rd minute. Kanoa earned its third win against sixth losses and hopes to close out the season on a winning note with another upset against the newly crowned Fall champion MP United this Saturday.

Matansa is also aiming to finish the season with a victory as it takes on Shirley's in the last game at 4pm. In the first match, TanHoldings will duel the winless Paire.

2017 Belau Men's Masters Softball League

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

The Papa Bears' Jojo Attao, left, shakes the hand of Karui's Taylor Germance, third left, after receiving their individual trophies during the awards ceremony for the 2017 Belau Men's Masters Softball League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field. Attao was the league's batting champ, while Germance won four awards, including the regular season most valuable player.

Lefty Shiro, left, gestures after earning the most doubles award.

Nizer Masaryos, left, receives his most triples from Perry Besong, right.

Taylor Germance, third left, collects one of his four trophies. He had the most home runs, runs scored, and RBIs awards and completed his domination in the regular season by taking the MVP plum.

Taylor Germance proudly shows all his four major awards.

Brotherhood's Julian Camacho, center, receives the Finals MVP trophy for hitting the game-winning walk-off homer.

Team Peleliu players pose with their runner-up trophy.

Team Asahi players pose for a photo after getting the sporstmanship award.

Former star pitcher Halladay killed in plane crash

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Aldridge leads Spurs' barrage against Clippers

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MPU secures U14 title

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United Football Club's Rohan Basnet, right, dribbles past Paire FC defenders during their first round meeting in the boys U14 division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club had already clinched the boys U14 division championship with still one playing week left in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League.

MP United claimed the division title early following a 5-0 triumph over Paire FC last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field. The shutout gave MP United a 7-2-0 win-draw-loss record, two victories ahead of Matansa Football Club (5-1-3), heading into this Saturday's final set of games in the double-round robin competition.

Rintaro Miyawaki drilled a pair of goals in MP United's win over Paire (0-0-9), while Rohan Basnet, Jason Quimzon, and Richard Steele contributed one goal apiece. Miyawaki drew first blood for MP United as he scored in the 11th minute for the squad's lone goal in the first half.

Then in the second half, it was Basnet's turn to get things going for MP United when he found the back of the net in the 41st minute. Ten minutes later, Miyawaki got his second goal, while Quimzon and Steele lit up the board in the 55th and 68th minute, respectively.

MP United, which also won the Spring championship in April for a sweep this year, will play its last game in the league's fall season against Kanoa Football Club at 2:30pm.

See MPU on Page 26

Rogolifoi taps young NMI squad for MBC

By JON PEREZ
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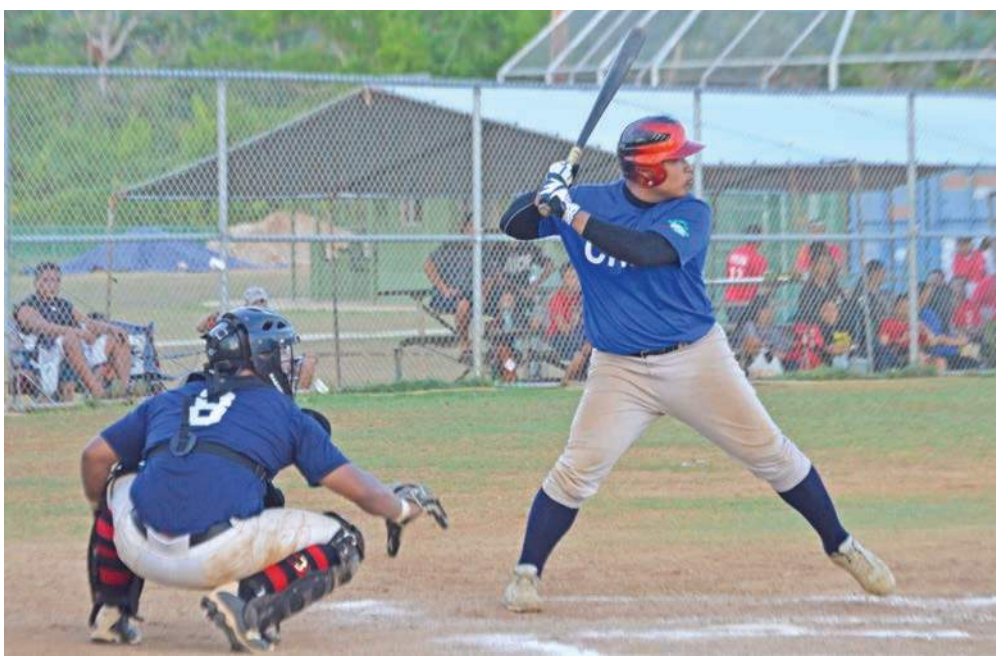
REPORTER

Long-time CNMI mentor Tony Rogolifoi has tapped a young, but internationally-tested squad to represent the islands for the second edition of the Micronesian Baseball Classic that will be held in Guam this month.

The MBC, a brainchild of Rogolifoi to continue the development of the region's young players, will take place at the Paseo Stadium in Agana in Guam from Nov. 14 to 20. Kosrae and Palau will be joining host Guam and the CNMI in the tournament.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Brian Camacho waits for the pitch during their title match against Guam in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic held last year at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Commonwealth crew will be led by Brian Camacho, the only holdover from the team that won the inaugural MBC held on Saipan last year. He will be sharing the first baseman duties with Angel Palacios, while the second baseman role will be divided between Jobe Reyes and A.J. Evangelista. Ian Norita and Peter Tomokane will be alternating at third base, while Virgil Secharmidal and Franco Nakamura will share shortstop roles. Henry Lizama Jr., Anthony Tenorio, and Ricardo Dela Cruz are the outfielders, while Barry Sunumai and Jerald Cabrera are the team's catchers. Manny Cabrera, Joe Palacios, Nathan Camacho, Jhace Palacios, Lorenzo Sebaklim, J.J. Lifoifoi, L.J. Sebaklim, and Ethan Babauta make up the CNMI's bullpen.

The CNMI National Team

See MBC on Page 26

Mendiola aims for pro career

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Don Mendiola is now setting his sights on becoming, probably, the first professional bodybuilder from the CNMI.

The 23-year-old made the bold announcement after his third-place finish in the highly-competitive 2017 NPC Shawn Ray Hawaiian Classic held last Nov. 4 at the Honolulu Convention Center in Hawaii, and he has set a three-year plan to achieve that goal. Included in the plan is his participation in more off-island competitions.

"I plan to compete off-island again for sure. My short-term goal is to defend my title as the overall champion in the DC Classic next year. Then hopefully become an overall champion in the Guam Bodybuilding Championships," said Mendiola.

"The next thing I have lined up is the Michelob Ultra at the Leo Palace Resort in Yona, Guam more than a week from now. I'll compete again on Nov. 17 and let's just say I'm ready to take a medal home with me once more," he added.

He will also continue with his training under the guidance of Latte Built Fitness owner and professional trainer Derek Cutting as he

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Mendiola